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## **Ohio Report for Monday, April 25, 2016**

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## Volume #85, Report #79 -- Monday, April 25, 2016

### House Education Panel To Examine Value-Added Report Card Measure

The House Education Committee this week will begin a deep dive into a state report card measure that's been the subject of debate over its accuracy in determining how much students are improving each year.

The panel will consider for the first time what the chairman has described as a "placeholder bill" (HB 524) that allows for discussion of the value-added report card measure, which reflects how much academic progress students made over the course of a year.

The bill comes in response to recent attempts from some advocacy groups to push the state toward using another measure in addition to, or instead of, "value-added" so that students' progress can be better compared to peers who are similar to them as opposed to their own previous test results, Chairman Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said.

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, a charter school advocacy group, recently lobbied for an amendment in a Senate priority measure (SB 3) that would add the similar students measure to the state report card. It pushed for the same addition in a charter school overhaul bill (HB 2) last year. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2016)

While the former bill could still be a vehicle for potential report card changes, Rep. Brenner said he felt the value-added versus similar students debate deserved separate consideration for now.

"I think they need to be vetted in their own bill and I think we need to have various groups come in and explain why we're doing things the way we are and what's included in it and what the importance is for each," he said in an interview.

Department of Education staff, who have lauded value-added as the best indicator of student success that's being used in the country, will explain how it is calculated during the committee's Wednesday morning meeting.

Rep. Brenner said the panel, which could meet twice the following week to consider the bill, will eventually hear from the measure's creators from Battelle for Kids.

"Many groups want to know what really are the components so we have a better understanding of it," he said. "If they knew a little more about how (value-added) was calculated for instance, they might have a better understanding of what they need to adjust in their school to meet the growth measures."

OCQE has argued that value-added doesn't adequately evaluate schools that have highly mobile and impoverished students, which are often charters and those in urban communities. That's because it's based on how students did last year - possibly at a different school - and doesn't compare them to similar students attending schools that share demographics.

The Ohio 8 Coalition, which has raised similar concerns about report cards not reflecting the uniqueness of each school in the state, will be encouraged to take part in the committee's conversation on value-added, Rep. Brenner said.

Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell), who is sponsoring the measure with Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima), said he's not going into the process with preconceived notions about how to approach value-added or similar students measures.

"I don't have any goals necessarily; it's more of an education for me," he said in an interview. "If we find something that we think we need to do over and above value-added, I'm willing to have that conversation, but before we can get there we need to figure out how value-added measures work. I want to have a discussion with all parties involved because 1.8 million kids in the state are counting on us to get it right."

However, much like the Thomas B. Fordham Institute has found through its research, Rep. Smith said value-added is a "really good concept" because achievement can be measured individually and sometimes reflects how well a school is doing in helping students progress despite not seeing high test scores.

"What's important and I'm really interested in is making sure that every student is making progress, not necessarily all getting 100% on their tests, but that they're making progress from where they've started and that's why I think value-added is very intriguing to me because it levels the playing field," he said.

The Fordham Institute, which sponsors charter schools, recently released a report touting value-added as being the key to uncovering best practices in high-poverty urban schools. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 11, 2016)

Such schools universally receive low overall marks on state report cards, but some receive high value-added ratings, according to the report.

Per House Bill 2, which was enacted earlier this year, ODE is researching the similar students measure and is required to submit a report regarding its findings and recommendations by Dec. 1.

Rep. Brenner said the discussion about how to improve school report cards and the how data is being used in the long term could likely be continued through the Joint Education Oversight Committee.

**Bill To Extend Energy Freeze Introduced In Senate**

Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) on Monday introduced his much-awaited bill to extend the ongoing renewable energy mandates freeze by three years.

In its major components, the bill (SB 320) is much the same as a draft circulated by Sen. Seitz last week to gauge stakeholder input. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2016)

It maintains the draft's 2019 end date for the freeze, while eliminating compliance measurements for the years 2021-22, 2023-24, and 2026-27.

It also keeps intact draft language prohibiting any state agency from issuing certain guidelines on carbon dioxide emissions, electric dispatch protocols, natural gas utilization, or regulating the acquisition of renewable energy and more "without new and specific state statutory authority to do so."

Several interested parties on both sides of the issue said Monday they had not yet had time to examine the final bill, which was introduced late in the afternoon. But in addition to continuing the freeze, opponents have expressed concerns the draft version would water down the definition of energy efficiency and remove flexibility from the state's response to the Clean Power Plan.

The bill as introduced would expand the definition of energy efficiency to include post-consumer recycled glass by mercantile customers, consumer reductions in water usage, and improvements in wastewater treatment. It would also expand the consumer base eligible for opting out of energy efficiency programs.

Whether Gov. John Kasich would sign such a bill remains to be seen. The governor last year blasted the Energy Mandates Study Committee's recommendation to continue the freeze. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, September 30, 2015)

Governor's office spokesman Joe Andrews declined to comment in detail on the introduced bill, which he said could change by the time it hits the governor's desk.

But Mr. Andrews said the governor has been clear on his opinion on continuing the freeze. Gov. Kasich previously called the idea of an indefinite continuation "unacceptable."

When it comes to the idea of a three year extension, Mr. Andrews said the governor's reaction will be much the same.

"It's still kicking the can down the road," Mr. Andrews said.

At an April 19 campaign stop in Maryland, Gov. Kasich said he has "leverage" over lawmakers in the discussion, according to video from CSPAN.

"They're going to have to come with a commonsense plan because if they try to kill it we'll go back to the unattainable level that was set," Gov. Kasich said. "That's called leverage. I have leverage."

He urged promoting efficiency and renewables, while criticizing politicians for setting the standard "at a level we can't meet."

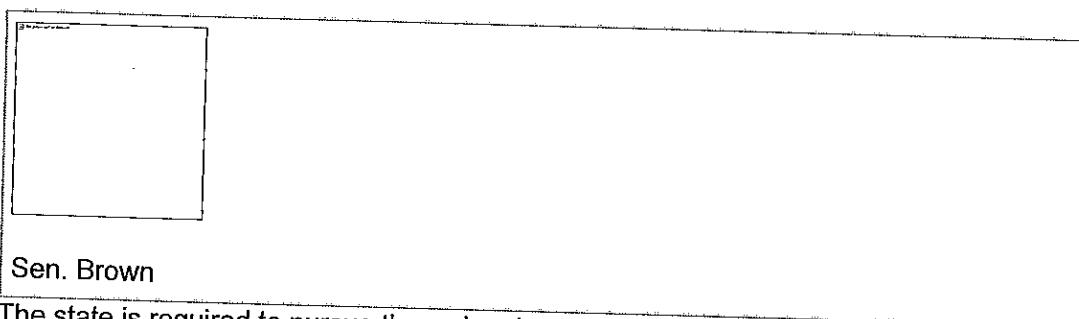
"So we want to have energy," he said. "The problem was the legislature got carried away at one point and our standards were 20 or 25% and they wanted to get rid of it. I said no, we're not going to do it. We'll reset it to fit the economy of Ohio."

### **Democrats Urge Feds To Reject Proposed 'Healthy Ohio' Medicaid Waiver**

Democrats said Monday that a proposed Medicaid waiver to require participants to pay into an account is an effort to roll back the efforts after the Affordable Care Act to increase access to coverage.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) joined state lawmakers at a Statehouse news conference to oppose the so-called "Healthy Ohio" plan, which Sen. Brown said he is actively urging the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reject.

"We're asking them to reject this application and say no to hiking costs for people all across Ohio," he said. "We're going to do all we can to deny the Ohio waiver because it clearly cuts at the heart of the Medicaid."



Sen. Brown

The state is required to pursue the waiver because of language written into the biennial budget bill (HB 64). It would create a five-year demonstration program in which about 1.5 million people on Medicaid are required to pay into a modified health savings account called a Buckeye Account in order to receive coverage. The participant's contributions to the account would be used to pay for co-pays. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016)

Supporters of the program, including state Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), have said it will improve personal responsibility among people on Medicaid and create incentives for more people to take advantage of primary and preventative care.

Since the waiver was opened for public comment April 15, opponents have criticized it as a way in which legislators have tried to undo the progress of Medicaid expansion. Medicaid participants who don't make the required contributions to the Buckeye Account - 2% of their income up to \$99 per year - would lose coverage.

"I believe this could be a prescription for disaster for many of Ohio's most vulnerable, especially in the fact that it could create a serious setback to the health of many low-income Ohioans," Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) said Monday. "We run the risk of driving hard-working Ohioans away from preventative and maintenance care in a doctor's office and pushing them back into the emergency room."

"We must expose the Healthy Ohio waiver for the Trojan horse that it is," she added.

Rep. Antonio said the proposal is similar to one in Indiana that the state later rolled back.

"They went back on it because what they were finding was that the health outcomes were not helpful once they instituted the premiums," she said.

Rep. Butler, one of the architects of the plan, said the Healthy Ohio plan is similar to the original Indiana plan but with some changes. The Healthy Ohio program doesn't lock people out of reapplying for Medicaid if they lose coverage, he said, it allows people to regain coverage once they start making payments again. The Ohio program also allows people who move to private insurance to take the money in their Buckeye Account with them in a bridge account, he said.

Rep. Butler said the Indiana plan, which was implemented in 2008, was successful.

Without doing something to control costs in Medicaid, Rep. Butler said, the state could face financial struggles with rising costs.

"Doing nothing is not a plan," he said in a Friday interview. "I'm open to suggestions. Come with a solution rather than just spend more money, because that's just unsustainable."

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) said he expected the Healthy Ohio program would lead to higher administrative costs for the state and wouldn't lead to the health outcomes Rep. Butler expects.

"When push comes to shove, we're going to see very little benefit of this for a whole lot of work," he said.

Rep. Antonio said the program could jeopardize coverage for new mothers, something that wouldn't help the state's high infant mortality rates.

Sen. Brown said the fact that some people would be kicked off of Medicaid means many would stay off of it and go back to using hospital emergency rooms without being able to pay the bills. That would cost everyone more money as hospitals go back to having to cover some of the nearly \$2.3 billion in uncompensated care from before the passage of the Affordable Care Act.

The proposal goes against the idea of Medicaid, he said.

"When people are rejected from something, that makes it that much more difficult to come back," Sen. Brown said. "The whole promise to people was we'll have a compact with you. You will show up for maintenance and preventative care as well as showing up when you have an acute crisis or health problem and we'll provide the care at no cost."

The comment period on the waiver runs through May 16. The final public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Cincinnati.

### **Gentile Heads Into Fall Election Cycle With Fundraising Lead Over Opponent; GOP Caucus Leaders Hold Huge Cash Advantage; DeWine Leads In High Court Funding**

Republicans' top Senate target in this fall's elections has a commanding lead thus far in the money race.

Sen. Lou Gentile (D-Steubenville) has built a campaign war chest of \$428,401 in his bid to retain his seat in the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District, according to post-primary campaign finance reports.

Post-primary reports include all activity from Feb. 25 to April 15.

Sen. Gentile spent just \$8,110 over that period, while raising \$102,251.

His opponent, Frank Hoagland, a retired Navy SEAL who owns START LLC in Mingo Junction, reported a balance of \$6,358 on hand. He raised \$9,624 and spent \$7,396.

Despite his cash shortcomings, Mr. Hoagland is expected to see a lot of support from the well-heeled Republican Senate Campaign Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2016) Given the politically lopsided, non-competitive nature of most of the GOP-drawn Senate districts, the majority won't have a lot of choices on where to spend its considerable cash advantage.

After spending \$102,351 in his primary victory against Reps. Mike Dovilla (R-Berea) and Nan Baker (R-Westlake) in the 24<sup>th</sup> Senate District's primary election, former lawmaker Matt Dolan has just \$7,892 on hand, according to his filing. He received \$25,967 in donations during the period.

His Democratic opponent, Emily Hagan, staff attorney for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge Michael P. Donnelly, has \$68,904 on hand. She raised \$27,460 and spent \$3,750 during her uncontested primary election.

On the House side, in the race to replace term-limited Rep. Debbie Phillips (D-Albany) Republican Jay Edwards has a commanding fundraising lead, with \$42,852 on hand. He received \$4,600 in donations and spent just \$2,500 during his uncontested primary.

Democrat Sarah Grace has just \$1,742 on hand. She raised \$3,545 and spent \$6,738 in defeating fellow Democrat Eddie Smith in the primary election in the 94<sup>th</sup> House District.

In the race for the 89<sup>th</sup> House District seat, Rep. Steven Arndt (R-Port Clinton), who narrowly defeated former Rep. Chris Redfern during the previous election cycle, has a slight fundraising deficit over his Democratic challenger.

Rep. Arndt has \$2,442 on hand after raising \$5,300 and spending \$5,100. His challenger, Lawrence Hartlaub, has \$4,590 on hand. He raised \$3,135 and spent \$2,359.

In the race for the 95<sup>th</sup> House District seat, Belmont County Commissioner Ginny Favede holds a significant fundraising advantage over incumbent Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta).

Ms. Favede has \$39,941 on hand. She raised \$11,092 and spent \$1,132. Rep. Thompson, meanwhile, has \$4,220 on hand. He raised \$5,360 and spent \$10,416.

Democrat Bobby McDowall holds a fundraising advantage over Rep. Anthony DeVitis (R-Green) in the race for the 36<sup>th</sup> House District seat, which the incumbent won with 52.5% of the vote in the last presidential cycle.

Mr. McDowall has \$13,974 on hand after raising \$6070 and spending \$2,258.

Rep. DeVitis has \$3,459 on hand. He raised \$10,115 and spent \$10,118.

Although he is expected to cruise to victory in his race against Democrat John Carlisle in the heavily conservative 72<sup>nd</sup> House District, former House Speaker Larry Householder has accumulated \$66,250 after spending \$75,187 and raising \$47,395.

**Leadership:** Republican leaders of both chambers have plenty of cash to spread around in the general election.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has \$420,795 on hand after spending \$17,449.

He raised \$163,147, with his largest contributions - \$12,532 each - coming from Political Education Patterns and Cynthia and Wayne Boich.

He also received \$10,000 donations from the Ohio Health Care Association PAC; the Realtors PAC; GOPAC Election Fund; the PAC for Equine Racing; J.C. Huizenga; and Karen Wright.

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) has \$178,648 on hand after spending \$27,615.

He received \$131,280 in contributions, including \$12,500 from FirstEnergy PAC, \$12,000 from the Realtors PAC and the Wholesale Beer and Wine Association PAC.

He also received donations of \$5,000 from Cardinal Health PAC; Marathon Petroleum Corporation Employees PAC; CCG PAC; and the Ohio State Chiropractic Association PAC.

His counterpart, Minority Leader Strahorn (D-Dayton), had \$2,593 on hand. He spent \$26,407 and raised \$23,525.

His largest contributions came from FirstEnergy PAC, which donated \$4,000, Laborers District Council of Ohio PAC, which donated \$2,500, and the Ohio Association for Justice, which also donated \$2,500.

Senate Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman) did not file a post-primary campaign finance report.

**Supreme Court:** First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat DeWine, a Republican, has more cash on hand than the other three high court candidates combined.

Judge DeWine is sitting on a campaign war chest of \$538,602 after spending \$41,486 and raising \$74,780 during the most recent reporting period.

He faces Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Cynthia Rice in the general election. The Democrat has \$76,310 on hand. She spent just \$3,226 and raised \$26,850.

In the other race for an open seat Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge John O'Donnell, a Democrat who lost a bid for a high court seat in 2014, has \$60,944 on hand. He spent \$23,043 and raised \$30,070.

His opponent, First District Court of Appeals Judge Pat Fischer, has \$29,220 on hand after spending \$121,579 to dispatch opponent Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge Colleen Mary O'Toole in the Republican primary. He raised \$64,625 in the reporting period.

#### **State Tax Credits Aimed At Creating, Keeping Total Of 1,066 Jobs**

Seven business expansion projects were awarded an estimated total of about \$1.64 million in tax credits Monday under multi-year deals with the state that are expected to create 530 jobs and retain 536.

The Tax Credit Authority reported that the projects are expected to result in \$21,241,653 in new payroll and lead to \$24.1 million in additional investments.

The largest incentive, with an estimated value of \$590,000 contingent on the business meeting its growth targets and other factors, went to **EBTH.com LLC**, according to the state.

The online estate sale company received a 1.259%, seven-year Job Creation Tax credit to locate its business in a yet-to-be-determined site in the state. The company plans to create 275 full-time positions generating \$7.7 million in new annual payroll while retaining \$3.3 million in payroll, TCA reported.

The next largest tax credit, valued at an estimated \$428,000, went to **ATK Space Systems, Inc.**, a supplier of rocket motors and other space systems with locations in Kettering and Beavercreek. The company projects it will create 68 full-time jobs with a consolidation involving the two locations, in the process creating \$4.3 million in payroll and retaining \$8 million in payroll, TCA reported. The authority awarded a 1.701%, seven-year JCTC for the project.

Other tax credits approved Monday went to (estimated tax value):

**GENCO I, Inc.** of Columbus, which expects to create 82 jobs generating \$3 million in new annual payroll with its new project. The logistic services provider received a 1.153%, six-year tax credit (\$192,000).

**Ball Metal Food Container, LLC** of Columbus plans 50 new full-time positions generating \$2.5 million in annual payroll while retaining \$10.8 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA approved a 1.228%, six-year JCTC for the packaging manufacturer's project (\$184,000).

**Cognitive Ventures, LLC** of Dublin expects to create 17 positions and generate \$1.6 million in new payroll by locating in the Franklin County suburb. The concussion testing and management company received a 1.426%, six-year tax credit (\$116,000).

**Risk International Services, Inc.** of Fairlawn in Summit County plans to create 18 full-time jobs entailing \$1.3 million in payroll while retaining \$4 million in payroll under an expansion. The TCA awarded the risk management firm a 1.401%, six-year JCTC (\$100,145).

**Rotex Global, LLC** of Cincinnati expects to create 20 full-time positions generating \$867,616 in payroll and retain \$9.9 million in payroll with an expansion project. The provider of dry material screening equipment and technology was awarded a 0.722%, five-year tax credit (\$29,000).

#### **Sierra Club Pushes For Public Disclosure Of FirstEnergy PPA Projections**

The fallout of recently approved Power Purchase Agreements continues as FirstEnergy and the Sierra Club argue over whether confidential consumer cost estimates and revenue projections should be made public.

The debate is laid out in the latest filings in a case involving the PPA modified and approved March 31 by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 31, 2016)

In that order, the commission generally approved an eight-year plan for consumers to ensure profits on the company's aging power plants. Now PPA opponent Sierra Club is attempting to make public internal FirstEnergy projections the group says show how much the plan might cost customers.

The projections in question stem from the December testimony of Sierra Club witness Tyler Comings, a senior associate at Massachusetts-based Synapse Energy Economics Inc. In redacted portions of that testimony, according to FirstEnergy's PUCO filing, Mr. Comings discussed "a certain projection regarding the alleged cost of Rider RRS" over the terms of the Electric Security Plan.

The Sierra Club, in its own filing, referred to the information as a "projection of costs and revenues" under the rider "including a calculation of the net impact that the Rider RRS would have on customers over the eight-year term using FES's forecast of market prices."

On Friday, the Sierra Club moved to modify the existing protective order issued during prior proceedings, requesting the PUCO modify the order to allow the information to become public. It argues the projection would assist the public in understanding and interpreting the PUCO's recent order and that it's not dissimilar from previous information made public during the hearing process.

"This projection, which contains no plant-specific data, is not a trade secret and therefore should be removed from the scope of the commission's protective order," Sierra Club argued.

"Because disclosure of the FES projection would facilitate the public's review and understanding of the Commission's decision, and because this projection is not a trade secret, this information should be publicly released," the group continued.

In its own filing Friday, the company disagrees, accusing the group of "threatening" to release trade secrets. FirstEnergy's motion is for the PUCO to maintain its existing protective order, which it said would keep that projection outside the public domain.

"This projection was generated using inputted confidential and proprietary cost and revenue projections that FES provided to Sierra Club in response to a subpoena request," reads FirstEnergy's filing. "Disclosure of this material could economically harm FES by placing FES at a competitive disadvantage."

On April 15, Sierra Club attorneys wrote to FirstEnergy, advising the company it intended to make the information public "because they do not contain any trade secrets," according to copies of an email exchange submitted to the PUCO as an exhibit.

"Apparently frustrated with the Commission's decision, Sierra Club has now decided to resort to self-help and has threatened to insert this already protected information into the public domain," FirstEnergy argued in its filing.

That email kick-started the filings, prompting a PUCO attorney examiner to set a Tuesday deadline by which parties may file responses to the motions. No replies to those arguments will be considered, the examiner determined.

### **Kasich, Cruz Unveil Truce To Stop Trump; Billionaire Rips Plan**

GOP frontrunner Donald Trump blasted Gov. John Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, accusing the two trailing Republicans of a desperate attempt at "collusion."

Mr. Trump's statement followed news that the Cruz campaign will lay off New Mexico and Oregon, allowing Gov. Kasich a clear shot at challenging Mr. Trump, while the Kasich camp agreed to cede Indiana to the senator.

The two haven't gone as far as to urge their supporters to vote for the other candidate - in contrast Gov. Kasich on Monday said his Indiana supporters "ought to vote for me" - but the pair has essentially agreed to not spend money in those respective states and are publicly urging their super PACs to do the same.

By doing so, the pair - each of which has been mathematically eliminated from seizing the nomination prior to a contested convention - hopes to launch a two-front attack that will block Mr. Trump from collecting the required 1,237 delegates.

"It is sad that two grown politicians have to collude against one person who has only been a politician for 10 months in order to try and stop that person from getting the Republican nomination," Mr. Trump said in his statement.

If successful, the gambit would force a contested convention, where both Sen. Cruz and Gov. Kasich believe they stand a shot at earning the nomination on the second ballot or beyond. But strategists for the two temporary allies were quick to say the truce only stands in those three states.

"Our goal is to have an open convention in Cleveland, where we are confident a candidate capable of uniting the party and winning in November will emerge as the nominee," Kasich Chief Strategist John Weaver said. "We believe that will be John Kasich, who is the only candidate who can defeat Secretary Clinton and preserve our GOP majority in the Congress."

Cruz Campaign Manager Jeff Roe, in his statement, said Mr. Trump would be a down-ballot "disaster" who would get "blown out" by either Democratic contender.

"To ensure that we nominate a Republican who can unify the Republican Party and win in November, our campaign will focus its time and resources in Indiana and in turn clear

the path for Gov. Kasich to compete in Oregon and New Mexico, and we would hope that allies of both campaigns would follow our lead."

Mr. Trump, in response, said the Cruz campaign is "in free fall" and criticized Gov. Kasich for having fewer delegates than Sen. Marco Rubio who dropped out of the race more than one month ago.

"This horrible act of desperation, from two campaigns who have totally failed, makes me even more determined, for the good of the Republican Party and our country, to prevail!" Mr. Trump said.

The tight race, in which every delegate Mr. Trump earns could be the last inch he needs to cross the 1,237 delegate threshold, has shifted more importance toward late voting states like Indiana, which heads to the polls May 3.

Indiana has 57 delegates - 30 which go to the state winner, and 27 others allotted to winners by congressional district. Recent polling continues to show Gov. Kasich lagging in Indiana, making Sen. Cruz the more competitive of the two.

An April 20-22 CBS News/YouGov poll found Mr. Trump at 40%, Sen. Cruz at 35% and Gov. Kasich at 20%. An April 18-21 Fox News poll found Mr. Trump (41%) similarly leading Sen. Cruz (33%) and Gov. Kasich (16%). A WTHR/HPI poll showed Mr. Trump at 37%, followed by Sen. Cruz (31%) and Gov. Kasich (22%).

"Due to the fact that the Indiana primary is winner-take-all statewide and by congressional district, keeping Trump from winning a plurality in Indiana is critical to keeping him under 1,237 bound delegates before Cleveland," Mr. Weaver said. "We are very comfortable with our delegate position in Indiana already, and given the current dynamics of the primary there, we will shift our campaign's resources west and give the Cruz campaign a clear path in Indiana."

**Tuesday:** Recent polls show Gov. Kasich in second in four northeastern states voting this week, while he battles Sen. Cruz in an effort to reach second in Pennsylvania. In addition to the Keystone State, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware vote Tuesday.

Recent Pennsylvania polls - from the left-leaning Public Policy Polling, CBS News/YouGov, and NBC/*Wall Street Journal/Marist* - show the governor in third, three or four points behind Sen. Cruz. In those polls, Sen. Cruz lags Mr. Trump by between 18-26 points. An April 21-24 poll from American Research Group showed Mr. Trump at 50%, Sen. Cruz at 23% and Gov. Kasich at 21%.

Rhode Island's recent polls show Gov. Kasich in a distant second. PPP's April 22-24 poll had him at 23%, down 38 points from Mr. Trump's 61% and 10 points above Sen. Cruz. Brown University, in an April 19-21 poll, found Mr. Trump at 38%, followed by Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (14%).

In other states, PPP's April 22-24 Connecticut poll placed Mr. Trump at 59%, ahead of Gov. Kasich (25%) and Sen. Cruz (13%). An April 21-24 ARG poll of Maryland found Mr. Trump leading Gov. Kasich 55-21%, followed by Sen. Cruz (19%). And in Delaware, the only poll to date, conducted April 17-18 by Gravis, found Mr. Trump at 55%, Gov. Kasich at 18% and Sen. Cruz at 15%.

**Vice President:** The Kasich campaign recently began vetting potential vice presidential candidates, Gov. Kasich said in a Sunday CBS interview.

Asked whether he plans to unveil the VP candidate prior to the convention in order to make the Kasich ticket more attractive to delegates, Gov. Kasich didn't close the door on the idea.

"These things come quickly and you don't want to have yourself in a position where you've got to pick somebody out of a hat," Gov. Kasich said.

**Endorsements:** Endorsing Gov. Kasich in recent days were the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, the *Lewistown (Penn.) Sentinel*, and former Pennsylvania U.S. Rep. Melissa Hart. The campaign also expanded its Washington leadership team.

#### **Court Briefs: Pike County Crime Scenes Also Sites Of Marijuana Growing Operations; Cleveland Settles Civil Suit With Family Of Tamir Rice**

Three of the four Pike County locations at which law enforcement officials on Friday discovered the bodies of eight individuals housed marijuana growing operations, Attorney General Mike DeWine said at a news conference Sunday.

Mr. DeWine did not say the murders and the marijuana growing operations are linked. He said investigators have not ruled out the possibility that there was more than one killer involved.

He also cautioned that the investigation could be lengthy.

"This was a pre-planned execution of eight individuals. It was a sophisticated operation and those who carried it out were trying to do everything they could do to hinder the investigation and their prosecution," he said at the news conference.

Eighteen pieces of evidence are being analyzed for forensics and ballistics at the Bureau of Criminal Investigation crime lab, five search warrants have been executed, more than 50 people have been interviewed and more than 100 tips have been received about the case, according to Mr. DeWine.

Also over the weekend, the attorney general's office released the names of the victims, all of whom are members of the same family and ranged in age from 16 to 44. On Monday, the attorney general's office released a chart to explain the familial relationships of the victims.

Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader said at the news conference that he has spoken to remaining members of the family and advised them to be armed.

Cincinnati restaurant owner Jeff Ruby is offering a \$25,000 reward for information that results in the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in the killings.

The attorney general's office on Monday also announced that autopsies had been completed on all eight victims.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call 1-855-BCI-OHIO or the Pike County Sheriff's Office at 740-947-2111.

**Rice Settlement:** The city of Cleveland and the family of Tamir Rice have reached a settlement in a civil suit over the shooting death of the 12-year-old boy.

The family will receive \$6 million over the course of two years, according to the settlement approved by U.S. District Judge Dan Polster. The settlement will also require the approval of a Cuyahoga County Probate Court judge.

Mr. Rice was killed by Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann in November 2014 after receiving reports of someone in a park with a gun. Mr. Rice was wielding a toy gun at the time of the shooting.

A grand jury late last year declined to bring any charges against Mr. Loehmann for the shooting. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 28, 2015)

The lack of charges has led some to call for changes to the grand jury process in Ohio in cases of officer-involved shootings. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 14, 2016)

A task force created by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to improve public confidence in the system is also exploring the issue. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 1, 2016)

In the wake of the settlement, the ACLU of Ohio called for reforms to the criminal justice system.

"Money alone cannot provide justice in the tragic death of this child," Executive Director Christine Link said in a statement. "The web of laws and practices that prevent accountability for police misconduct needs to be taken apart and replaced with concrete solutions to eliminate racial bias in the justice system. Merely paying for police misconduct without addressing the deeper issues will allow this behavior to continue year after year."

**Agency Briefs: Auditor Says Village Of Lincoln Heights Doesn't Qualify For Fiscal Distress; ODH; EPA; CSRAB; BMV; MHAS**

The Village of Lincoln Heights in Hamilton County doesn't meet the standards for fiscal distress status, State Auditor Dave Yost announced Monday.

Auditor Yost sent a team of auditors to the community April 21, and staff will continue to work in the village as part of its regularly scheduled financial audit.

The village did not meet the conditions for any of the three levels of fiscal distress - fiscal caution, fiscal watch or fiscal emergency - because it is current on pension obligations and its payables, including obligations to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, are within 30 days of being paid, according to the auditor's office.

"While the village's budget continues to be tighter than two coats of paint, it's paying its bills," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "The village doesn't meet the standards for any type of fiscal distress oversight. We have been and remain concerned about its fiscal health and will continue to monitor the situation."

**Health:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance for outdoor workers, mosquito control workers and business travels to prevent exposure to the Zika virus, according to ODH.

Ohio has 10 confirmed cases of Zika involving people who returned from affected countries.

For outdoor workers, the CDC recommends workers use insect repellants, wear clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and other exposed skin and get rid of sources of standing water whenever possible. For mosquito control workers, the CDC also recommends they use protection to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Employers should consider giving business travelers flexibility when traveling to areas with active Zika transmission. The CDC also recommended that pregnant women not travel to any affected area, and that people who return to the U.S. from affected areas try to avoid mosquito bites for three weeks to prevent passing the virus to domestic mosquitoes.

"Workers who are exposed on the job to mosquitoes or the blood or other body fluids of infected individuals may be at risk for occupationally acquired Zika virus infection," ODH Medical Director Dr. Mary DiOrio said in a statement.

ODH will hold a workshop Tuesday to help local health departments and others prepare for mosquito season. The workshop will focus on monitoring and controlling mosquitoes who carry diseases such as Zika and West Nile Virus.

**Ohio EPA:** The EPA awarded grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to local governments to strengthen recycling and litter prevention efforts. The grants are designed to help expand curbside recycling programs and support infrastructure for recovery facilities.

Grant communities must commit to 50% matching funds.

The EPA also awarded grants for two projects to help companies develop markets for reusing scrap tires.

The agency awarded \$350,000 to Liberty Tire Services of Ohio LLC, in partnership with Jackson Township, to purchase scrap tire processing equipment. A \$50,000 grant went to the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation to buy processing equipment to create geo cells made of scrap tire material.

**Ohio Statehouse:** The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board will mark the 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the repose of President Abraham Lincoln's body in the Statehouse Friday with an event involving a group of Civil War reenactors who will provide an honor guard for a replica of the president's casket.

The event will take place in the rotunda from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A reenactors will also hold a Civil War encampment on the grounds of the Statehouse, including cannon firings every half hour.

**Bureau of Motor Vehicles:** The BMV unveiled a new specialty license plate for female veterans, which was available starting Monday.

The plate is available for any woman currently serving or retired from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

"We are proud of these brave women who have served our country, and are pleased that Ohioans can now honor them by displaying the new special plate on their vehicle," BMV Registrar Don Petit said in a statement.

More than 67,000 female veterans live in Ohio. The new plate is one of 40 military-related specialty plates.

"Ohio's women veterans are groundbreakers," said Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill, "They have served with distinction in every war and we thank them for their role in preserving and protecting our freedom."

**Mental Health and Addiction Services:** Director Tracy Plouck testified before a public hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Friday in Cleveland. The hearing was focused on the impact of the opioid epidemic in Ohio, and included Sens. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) and Sherrod Brown (D-Avon).

Director Plouck joined Attorney General Mike DeWine and others in testifying about the battle against opioid addiction.

**Capitol Scene: Willoughby Moves To AMP; SEIU, Boich Promote**

Charles Willoughby, who most recently worked as director of energy and environmental policy at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, has been named director of government affairs for American Municipal Power, Inc.

In the new role, Mr. Willoughby will be the primary Statehouse contact for AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

"Charles will work closely with AMP and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) on behalf of our member utilities," said Michael Beirne, vice president of external affairs. "The issues confronting Ohio's municipal electric systems are many and often complex. His background and knowledge will be a great asset to the organizations and our members."

Before joining the Chamber, he was a government affairs consultant to the Industrial Energy Users - Ohio and was policy and legislative liaison for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine. He also held staff positions for Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) when he served in the Senate, and for former Rep. Courtney Combs.

Mr. Willoughby is a graduate of Miami University.

**Service Employee Union:** SEIU District 1199 announced that Anthony Caldwell has been named director for public affairs.

"We are pleased to announce Anthony Caldwell as our new Director of Public Affairs for SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH," president Becky Williams said. "Anthony has spent his career dedicated to improving the lives of working people and working to achieve greater social and economic justice. Caldwell's experience in communications and politics matched with his depth of knowledge of the legislature have prepared him to lead in this important role."

The group is the health care and social service union for West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, representing almost 29,000 workers.

**Boich:** The Boich Companies announced that Mathew T. Evans has been named the firm's president.

In the new position, Mr. Evans will take an increased leadership role as the company continues to diversify in energy markets.

"Obviously, the energy mix in this country has and will be seeing significant changes," Mr. Evans said. "I look forward to helping the company further evolve as we move into the future."

Before the promotion, Mr. Evans was president of external relations for Boich Companies. He joined the company in 2001, and leads the company's government affairs activities at state and federal levels.

Mr. Evans is a former Ohio Senate aide who also worked for former Gov. George V. Voinovich. He also spent five years working in legislative and regulatory affairs for Cinergy, now known as Duke Energy. He is a graduate of Ohio University.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

#### **Tuesday, April 26**

Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room West B & C - 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

#### **Thursday, April 28**

State Board of Education, Ohio Department of Education, 25 South Front Street, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

Ethics Commission, 126 S. State St., Meeting Room A, Westerville, 12 p.m. (Advisory Committee)

EMIS Advisory Board, Statehouse Rm. 116, Columbus, 1 p.m.

#### **Friday, April 29**

Accountancy Board, Rm. West B&C, 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

#### **Thursday, May 5**

Ethics Commission, 30 West Spring Street, Meeting Room 2, 2nd Fl., Columbus, 11:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

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## House Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**HB 529** FIREARMS (Rutherford, W., Hagan, C.) To provide for firearms training for tactical medical professionals; to permit such a professional who has received that training or comparable training and who is authorized to carry firearms by the law enforcement agency the professional is serving to carry firearms while on duty in the same manner, to the same extent, in the same areas, and subject to the same potential for civil and criminal liability as a law enforcement officer of the agency; and to grant such a professional, while on duty in that capacity, the same right to carry a concealed handgun in this state as a person who was issued a concealed handgun license. Am. 109.71, 109.73, 109.75, 109.79, 109.801, and 2923.126 and to enact sections 109.748 and 109.771

**HB 530** CHILD CARE CENTERS (Rutherford, W.) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers. Am. 5104.01, 5104.015, and 5104.99 and to enact sections 5104.0113, 5104.15, 5104.16, and 5104.17

**HB 531** MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS (Hill, B.) To require townships to provide mileage reimbursement to a member of a board of township trustees and to a township fiscal officer for travel within the township that is necessary in the performance of the member's or fiscal officer's duties. Am. 505.242 and 507.091

**HB 532** REAL ESTATE SALES (Smith, R.) Relating to real estate brokers and salespersons. Am. 4735.01, 4735.06, 4735.07, 4735.09, 4735.10, 4735.141, 4735.18, 4735.24, 4735.51, and 4735.65 and to enact sections 1386, 4735.081, 4735.091, and 4735.23

**HB 533** AWARENESS MONTH (Sprague, R.) To designate the month of May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." Am. 5.259

### HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

Commission on Minority Health: Rep. Sykes

Joint Education Oversight Committee of the House of Representatives and Senate: Rep. Patterson as ranking minority member

Medina County Transportation Improvement District Board of Trustees: Rep. Hambley

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## Senate Activity for Monday, April 25, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SB 318** **DISCRIMINATION (Skindell, M., Tavares, C.)** To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law. Am. 9.03, 124.93, 125.111, 153.59, 153.591, 340.12, 511.03, 717.01, 1501.012, 1751.18, 2927.03, 3113.36, 3301.53, 3304.15, 3304.50, 3314.06, 3332.09, 3721.13, 3905.55, 4111.17, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.021, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4117.19, 4735.16, 4735.55, 4757.07, 4758.16, 4765.18, 5104.09, 5107.26, 5123.351, 5126.07, 5165.08, 5515.08, and 5709.832

**SB 319** **DRUG REGULATIONS (Eklund, J.)** To revise certain laws regarding the regulation of drugs, the practice of pharmacy, and the provision of addiction services. Am. 2925.61, 2929.14, 2947.231, 3707.56, 3719.121, 3719.21, 4729.06, 4729.071, 4729.16, 4729.18, 4729.19, 4729.38, 4729.51, 4729.54, 4729.541, 4729.55, 4729.571, 4729.60, 4729.68, 4729.99, 4731.22, 4731.94, 4776.02, 4776.04, and 5119.391, to enact sections 3707.58, 3707.59, 4729.10, 4729.40, 4729.45, 4729.513, 4729.514, 4729.553, 4729.90, 4729.901, 4729.902, 4729.91, 4729.92, 4729.921, 4729.93, 4729.94, 4729.95, 4729.96, and 4731.943, and to repeal section 4729.42 of the Revised Code and to amend Sections 331.90 and 331.120 of Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly

**SB 320** **RENEWABLE ENERGY (Seitz, B.)** To revise the requirements for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction, to permit property owners to petition municipal corporations and townships for the purpose of developing and implementing special energy improvement projects, to govern condominium association participation in special improvement districts, to require deployment and permit cost recovery of advanced energy analytics technology by electric distribution utilities, and to revise the law governing net metering service provided by electric utilities and electric services companies. Am. 710.01, 1710.02, 1710.06, 1710.13, 3706.25, 4582.06, 4582.31, 4928.01, 4928.02, 4928.55, 4928.64, 4928.66, 4928.662, 4928.6610, and 4928.67; to recodify section 4928.67 as sections

4928.6711, 4928.6713, 4928.6715, 4928.6717, 4928.6723, and 4928.6725; and to enact sections 1710.20, 1710.21, 1710.22, 1710.24, 1710.241, 1710.26, 1710.28, 3745.28, 4928.41, 4928.6620, 4928.6621, 4928.671, 4928.672, 4928.673, 4928.676, 4928.677, 4928.679, 4928.6719, and 4928.6721

**Gongwer Coverage**

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**SR 443**

**RAIL CREWS (Skindell, M.)** To support the Federal Railroad Administration's proposed rule requiring trains operated in the United States to have at least a two-person crew.

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**SCR 20**

**AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (Peterson, B.)** To support the use of science-based data to assess the impacts and regulation of modern agricultural technologies, and to oppose federal, state, or local legislative or regulatory actions that are not based on sound science and that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies.

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**SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS**

Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues: Appoint Sen. LaRose to replace Sen. Manning

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## Daily Activity Planner for Tuesday, April 26

### Legislative Committees

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. McClain, J., 644-6265), Rm. 121, 9:30 a.m.

**SB 172** **BULLION TAXES (Jordan, K.)** To exempt from sales and use taxes the sale or use of investment metal bullion and coins. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**HB 473** **TAX POLICY (Amstutz, R.)** To require voter approval before a county may levy a new utilities services tax, to allow small businesses to count employees of related or affiliated entities towards satisfying the employment criteria of the business investment tax credit, to permit a bad debt refund for cigarette and tobacco product excise taxes paid when a purchaser fails to pay a dealer for the cigarettes or tobacco products and the unpaid amount is charged off as uncollectible by the dealer, and to allow vendors to receive a refund of sales taxes remitted for bad debts on private label credit cards when the debt is charged off as uncollectible by the credit card lender. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 297** **TAX CREDIT (Hill, B.)** To authorize a refundable income tax credit for current livestock owners who invest in a manure storage or treatment facility or acquire manure application equipment or manure handling and transportation equipment. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

House Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Brenner, A., 466-6711), Rm. 017, overflow in 018, 9:30 a.m.

- Presentation from the Ohio Department of Education on value-added.

**HB 524** **SCHOOL RATINGS (Cupp, R., Smith, R.)** To review the value-added progress dimension measure used for purposes of state report card ratings for school districts and schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 487** **BILITERACY (LaTourette, S., Roegner, K.)** To require the State Board of Education to establish the state Seal of Biliteracy to be attached or affixed to the high school transcripts of qualifying students. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 481** **STUDENT ENROLLMENT (Thompson, A., Koehler, K.)** To revise the requirements regarding student enrollment reporting for public schools, mandatory student withdrawal policies, and scholarship program eligibility relative to students who choose not to take state assessments during the 2015-2016 school year and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 137** **ORGAN DONATION (Grossman, C., Phillips, D.)** To require the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction on the positive effects of organ and tissue donation. (4th Hearing-Possible vote)

Senate State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-8082), North Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

**SB 220** **DEFERRED COMPENSATION** (Hottinger, J.) To authorize the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board and local governments to establish designated Roth account features and other tax-deferred or nontax-deferred features permitted for government deferred compensation plans. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 359** **ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY** (Duffey, M., Gonzales, A.) To create an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**SCR 15** **FEDERALISM** (Obhof, L., Faber, K.) To reassert the principles of federalism found throughout the Constitution of the United States of America and embodied in the Tenth Amendment, to notify Congress to limit and end certain mandates, and to insist that federal legislation contravening the Tenth Amendment be prohibited or repealed. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 240** **CORONER LAW** (Huffman, S., Johnson, T.) To recognize that coroners include medical examiners; to change the qualifications for holding office as a coroner of a charter county; to require, under certain conditions, and to authorize, under other conditions, supplemental compensation for coroners who are forensic pathologists; to revise how the office of coroner is filled when a vacancy cannot be filled by election or appointment; to specify the disposition of a firearm when a person meets death under certain circumstances; to specify who pays for the autopsy of an inmate of a state correctional facility; and to make other changes to the coroners' law. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 305** **RETIREMENT SYSTEMS** (Schuring, K.) To include new nonteaching employees of The University of Akron as members in the Public Employees Retirement System and to make an appropriation for the University's School Employees Retirement System employer surcharge payments. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

House Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Smith, R., 466-1366), Rm. 313, 10 a.m.

**SB 310** **CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS** (Oelslager, S.) To make capital appropriations and changes to the law governing capital projects for the biennium ending June 30, 2018. (1st Hearing-Sponsor-Pending referral)

**HB 475** **FILM TAX CREDITS** (Schuring, K.) To authorize motion picture companies to transfer the authority to claim refundable motion picture tax credits to other persons, to adjust how the credit is calculated, to increase the total amount of credits that may be awarded per year, to remove the limit on the maximum credit amount that may be awarded to a motion picture, and to create a job training program for resident film crew members. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 500** **CASE MANAGEMENT (Arndt, S.)** To revise the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, to establish a case management pilot program, to transfer cash from the Economic Development Program Fund (Fund 5JC0) to the Case Management Pilot Program Fund (Fund 5SK0), and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)  
**Senate Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Hottinger, J., 466-5838), South Hearing Rm., 10:30 a.m.**

**HB 207** **WORKERS COMPENSATION (Henne, M., McColley, R.)** To allow a state fund employer to have a workers' compensation claim that is likely to be subrogated by a third party paid from the surplus fund account in the state insurance fund rather than charged to the employer's experience (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

**SB 273** **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Bacon, K.)** To enact the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)  
**Canceled: House Session (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 11 a.m.**

- **If needed**  
**Canceled: Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-7584), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.**

**Senate Agriculture (Committee Record) (Chr. Hite, C., 466-8150), North Hearing Rm., 11 a.m.**

**HB 178** **WINE SALES (Manning, N.)** To establish the F-10 liquor permit to authorize certain A-2 permit holders to sell Ohio wines at farmers markets. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 342** **WINERY PERMITS (Young, R.)** To create the Ohio Farm Winery Permit. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 187** **ANIMAL TREATMENT (Ginter, T.)** To authorize specified emergency personnel to provide certain emergency medical services to an injured dog or cat. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

**SB 151** **DOGS LAW (Beagle, B.)** To revise provisions of the Dogs Law governing nuisance, dangerous, and vicious dogs, to revise enforcement of that Law, and to establish a notification process regarding complaints of certain violations of that Law. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 60** **COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE (Hall, D., Patmon, B.)** To revise provisions and penalties regarding treatment of companion animals, to revise the definition of "companion animal" in the Offenses Relating to Domestic Animals Law, and to provide a state collaborative effort to assist veterinarians in identifying clients who may use their animals to secure opioids for abuse. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**Senate Financial Institutions (Committee Record) (Chr. Hughes, J., 466-5981), Finance Hearing Rm., 11:15 a.m.**

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of John Brown, and Jordan Miller, Jr., Banking Commission and Fred DeBiasi, Jr., Savings and Loan Association and Savings Bank Board.

**HB 317** **IDENTITY THEFT** (Maag, R.) To enable the parents or guardian of a protected consumer to freeze that consumer's credit to protect the consumer from identity theft. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 303** **DEED PROGRAM** (Dever, J., McColley, R.) To create the D.O.L.L.A.R. Deed Program. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

**House Rules & Reference** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Amstutz, R., 466-1474**), Rm. 119, 1 p.m.

**HB 429** **AUTO TECHNICIANS** (Antani, N., Reineke, B.) Regarding employers of automotive technicians and motor vehicle technicians participating in the Incumbent Workforce Training Voucher Program. (1st Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

**Canceled:** Senate Session-**(Chr. Faber, K., 466-4900)**, Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

**Canceled:** Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues, Joint Legislative Task Force on Department of Transportation Issues (**Chr. Manning, G., 466-9690**, **Chr. Grossman, C., 466-9690**), TBD, 2 p.m.

- Tentative meeting

**House Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Terhar, L., 466-8258**), Rm. 113, 2:15 p.m.

**HB 418** **SENIOR HOUSING** (Barnes, J.) To enact the "Senior Housing Relief Act" to prohibit the sale of delinquent property tax certificates for homesteads owned for at least 20 years by a person aged 65 or older. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

**HB 463** **MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES** (Dever, J.) To establish expedited actions to foreclose mortgages on vacant and abandoned residential properties, to permit private selling officers to conduct judicial and execution sales of real property, to state the intent of the General Assembly regarding mortgage foreclosure actions, to revise the Commercial Paper Law relating to mortgages and lost instruments, and to make other changes relative to foreclosure actions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments)

**House Energy & Natural Resources** (Committee Record) (**Chr. Landis, A., 466-8035**), Rm. 017, 2:30 p.m.

**HB 512** **WATER SYSTEMS** (Ginter, T.) To establish requirements governing lead and copper testing for community and nontransient noncommunity water systems, to revise the law governing lead contamination from plumbing fixtures, to make appropriations to the Facilities Construction Commission for purposes of providing grants for lead fixture replacement in eligible schools, and to revise the laws governing the Water Pollution Control Loan and

Drinking Water Assistance Funds. (1st Hearing-Sponsor & proponent-Pending referral)  
**House Government Accountability & Oversight** (Committee Record) (Chr. Brown, T., 466-8104), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m.

**HJR 6** **TERRORIST NATIONS** (Johnson, T.) Proposing to enact Section 18 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit state agencies and the state's public retirement systems from contracting with and investing in companies with certain business operations in countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and to require state agencies and public retirement systems to divest investments from such companies. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**SB 213** **COSMETOLOGY LAW** (Jordan, K., Tavares, C.) To make changes to the Cosmetology Licensing Law. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 471** **COMMISSION ELIMINATION** (Brown, T.) To formally abolish certain boards and commissions that have completed their work and to abolish the Compact with Ohio Cities Task Force. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 476** **STATE CONTRACTING** (Schuring, K.) To prohibit a state agency from contracting with a company that is boycotting Israel or disinvesting from Israel. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**HB 504** **PUBLIC RECORDS** (Schuring, K.) To generally protect a private, nonprofit institution of higher education from liability for a breach of confidentiality or other claim that arises from the institution's disclosure of public records. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

**House Select Committee on Medical Marijuana** (Chr. Schuring, K., 752-2438), Rm. 313, 3 p.m.

**HB 523** **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** (Huffman, S.) To authorize the use of marijuana for medical purposes and to establish the Medical Marijuana Control Program. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

**Senate Finance** (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointments of Susan Block, Ohio Arts Council; Phil Collins, University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees; Michael Flowers, Minority Development Financing Advisory Board; Will Lucas, University of Toledo Board of Trustees; John Martin, Ohio Higher Educational Facility Commission and William Scala and Joseph Gingo, University of Akron Board of Trustees

**HB 50** **ADOPTION ASSISTANCE** (Peland, D., Grossman, C.) To extend the age for which a person is eligible for federal foster care and adoption assistance payments under Title IV-E to age twenty-one, to provide a ward's bill of rights, to require that a guardian receive the Ohio Guardianship Guide, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 267** **VEHICLE FUELS (Seitz, B., Peterson, B.)** To create the Gaseous Fuel Vehicle Conversion Program, to allow a credit against the income or commercial activity tax for the purchase or conversion of an alternative fuel vehicle, to apply the motor fuel tax to the distribution or sale of compressed natural gas, to authorize a temporary, partial motor fuel tax exemption for sales of liquid and compressed natural gas used as motor fuel, and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 274** **FINANCIAL LITERACY (Seitz, B.)** To require the Chancellor of Higher Education to create the SmartOhio Financial Literacy Pilot Program at the University of Cincinnati to operate for the 2016-2017 school year and to make an appropriation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 298** **COMMUNITY SCHOOL CONTRACTS (Schiavoni, J.)** Regarding community school operator contracts and the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**House Judiciary (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 116, 3:30 p.m.**

**HB 268** **HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Hall, D., Dever, J.)** To expand the list of human trafficking-related convictions and delinquency adjudications that may be expunged, to increase the penalties for compelling prostitution and promoting prostitution, and to authorize intervention in lieu of conviction for persons charged with committing an offense while a victim of compelling prostitution. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 353** **SEX OFFENDERS (Ruhl, M.)** To require a sheriff to mail a notice to every adult member of a household where a person who is required to register as a sex offender resides informing those household members that the person has committed a sexually oriented offense or a child-victim oriented offense. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 439** **VOYEURISM (Anielski, M.)** To include an impaired person as a victim of voyeurism and to include conduct involving an impaired person within the offenses of pandering obscenity involving a minor, pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, and illegal use of a minor in a nudity-oriented material or performance. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 446** **OVI OFFENSES (Manning, N.)** To specify that the prison term that may be imposed for a third degree felony operating a vehicle while intoxicated ("OVI") offense is a definite period of twelve, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-eight, fifty-four, or sixty months, to add "harmful intoxicant" to the definition of "drug of abuse" for the purposes of commercial driver's licensing law, to allow a person to assert the existing affirmative defense of driving in an emergency with regard to a prosecution for driving under a suspended driver's license under specified laws, and to specify that certain enhanced penalties for speeding violations apply regardless of whether the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to speeding. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

**HB 488** **CIVIL LIABILITY** (Sprague, R.) To modify the qualified immunity from civil liability for volunteer health care services provided to indigent and uninsured persons and to permit health care professionals to earn continuing education credit by providing volunteer health care services to indigent and uninsured persons. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sunset Review Committee (Committee Record) (**Chr. Brown, T.**, 466-8104), South Hearing Rm., 3:30 p.m.

- The panel will hear testimony from the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program Council, Utility Radiological Safety Board, Backflow Advisory Board, Electrical Safety Inspector Advisory Committee, State Fire Council, Citizen's Advisory Council and Student Tuition Recovery Authority.

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (**Chr. Derickson, T.**, 644-5094), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

**HB 493** **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Sears, B., Ryan, S.) To make changes in the child abuse and neglect reporting law. (2nd Hearing-Sponsor & proponent)

**HB 63** **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING** (Pelandra, D., Grossman, C.) To require mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect to notify the county public children services agency when an attorney in fact under a document that purports to grant parental rights requests services from them, to require the agency to investigate the child's placement with the attorney in fact, and to require the agency to file a dependency complaint if it determines that the placement is unsafe for the child. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Labor (Committee Record) (**Chr. LaRose, F.**, 466-4823), North Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Scott Williams, State Fire Commission

**SB 315** **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** (Manning, G.) To make supplemental appropriations related to transportation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017, and to declare an emergency. (1st Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Education (Committee Record) (**Chr. Lehner, P.**, 466-4538), Finance Hearing Rm., 4 p.m.

- The panel will hear a presentation from the Department of Education on the Value Added progress measure and consider the governor's appointment of Robert McDonald Jr. to the State Board of Education

**HB 113** **CPR TRAINING** (Grossman, C., Manning, N.) To require instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a requirement for high school graduation. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**HB 425** **RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION** (Hayes, B.) Regarding student religious expression. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

**SB 297** **STUDENT EXPULSIONS** (Hughes, J.) With respect to the expulsion of a student from a school district, community school, or STEM school for

communicating a threat of violence to occur on school grounds. (2nd Hearing-  
Proponent)

## Agency Calendar

**Board of Building Appeals, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m.**

**Health Services Price Disclosure Study Committee, Lazarus Building, 5th Floor, 141 S. High St., Columbus, 9 a.m.**

**Minority Development Financing Advisory Board, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.**

**Racing Commission, 77 South High St., Room West B & C - 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.**

## Event Planner

**League of Women Voters of Ohio's annual Statehouse Day**

**CFAES Research and Extension Legislative Luncheon (Ohio State University), Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 11 a.m.**

**Ohio House Democratic Caucus fundraiser, Rambling House, 310 E. Hudson St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500, \$250 to House Democratic Caucus Fund and/or Committee to Elect Fred Strahorn)**

**Rep. Barbara Sears (R-Monclova Township) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Tally Ho Room, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Sponsor: \$500; Individual: \$350 to Citizens for Sears)**

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus, Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com)

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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**From:** Gruber, Joe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 3:19 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn  
**Subject:** Press Release Regarding Ford Announcement

Carolyn and Brad,

Rep. Manning asked me if we could get out a press release regarding this announcement, if possible.

Let me know if you need more information.

[http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2016/04/ford\\_investing\\_200\\_million\\_in.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2016/04/ford_investing_200_million_in.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

"I wanted to share some exciting news on a Ford investment in Ohio that will be announced today. Ford is investing 200 million to upgrade our Ohio Assembly plant, located in Avon Lake, creating or retaining 150 hourly jobs to build Super Duty chassis cab. Ohio Assembly Plant employs more than 1,650 people. It began building F-350, F-450 and F-550 Super Duty chassis cab configurations earlier this year. The plant also produces Ford F-650 and F-750, which was insourced from Mexico last year, as well as Ford E-Series cutaway vans and stripped chassis. Today's announcement is part of Ford's commitment made in the 2015 UAW-Ford collective bargaining agreement to invest 9 billion and create or retain 8,500 hourly jobs in its U.S. facilities during the next four years. Since 2011, Ford has invested 12 billion in its U.S. plants and created nearly 28,000 total U.S. jobs. Please share with Nathan as I don't have his cell. Hope you guys are well!" -  
Gabby Bruno, Ford

Thanks!

Joe Gruber  
LA Manning

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 4:49 PM  
**To:** Gruber, Joe  
**CC:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** RE: Press Release Regarding Ford Announcement

Hi Joe,

We can start putting something together.

Thanks!

**Carolyn Best**

*Director of Communications*  
Office of Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Office Phone: 614.644.1739  
Cell Phone: 740.815.9635

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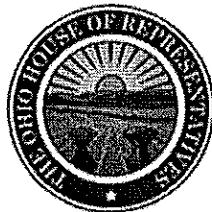
Joe Gruber  
LA Manning

**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2016 10:22 AM  
**To:** Gruber, Joe  
**CC:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** RE: Press Release Regarding Ford Announcement

*Hi Joe,*

*Below is the release. I included a statement—feel free to make changes.*

*Thanks!*



**OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
*Majority Communications Department*

**For Immediate Release:**

April 27, 2016

**Rep. Nathan Manning Applauds Ford Investment at Avon Lake Plant**

COLUMBUS—State Representative Nathan Manning (R-North Ridgeville) today applauded the recent announcement that the Ford Motor Company is investing \$200 million in upgrades at their plant located in Avon Lake, creating or retaining 150 hourly jobs.

Rep. Manning issued the following statement on the announcement:

*"I was pleased to hear the news about Ford making this investment in the Ohio Assembly Plant located in Avon Lake. The key to a healthy, thriving economy is through the creation of jobs and this is another example of how Ohio is back in business and making gains in the automotive industry, which is an industry that has important ties to this area. I look forward to seeing how this investment will spur job growth in Lorain County and I want to thank Ford for their continual support in our community."*

The announcement is part of a commitment made by Ford in 2015 to invest \$9 billion in order to create or retain 8,500 hourly jobs in U.S. facilities over the next four years. According to a press release, over the last five years, Ford has invested \$12 billion in its U.S. plants and created nearly 28,000 jobs.

The investment at the Ohio Assembly Plant will go towards building Super Duty chassis cab trucks.

-30-

*For more information, please contact Joe Gruber at (614) 644-5076 or*  
*Rep55@ohiohouse.gov.*

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Thanks!

Joe Gruber  
LA Manning

**From:** Adams, Alexandra  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:03 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora; Westlake, Libby; Smith, Kristen; Best, Carolyn  
**CC:** VanBuskirk, Victoria; James, Ben  
**Subject:** ALERT: Hagan Duffey HB 130 (Sending @ 5:20)  
**Attachments:** Christina Hagan 8095.jpg; Mike Duffey 8425.jpg



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Majority Communications Department*

**For Immediate Release:**  
2016

**contact:** Ben James  
May 18,

644.6030

**Media**

614.

### **Ohio House Passes 'DataOhio' Bill, HB 130 (Hagan, Duffey) to Increase Transparency of State Government in Ohio**

COLUMBUS – By a unanimous vote of 90-0, the Ohio House of Representatives today passed House Bill 130, also known as DataOhio, legislation sponsored by State Representatives Christina Hagan (R-Alliance) and Mike Duffey (R-Worthington). A nearly identical bill passed the Ohio House last session by a unanimous vote of 92-0, but did not have time to pass the Ohio Senate during 'lame duck' session.

DataOhio would allow Ohio citizens to more easily find and use public record data online by standardizing formats to allow simplified programming and accounting methods, allowing quick comparison charts and graphs using public data. Possible uses include charts showing taxpayer spending, crime statistics, healthcare statistics and much more.

If enacted, DataOhio is intended to greatly reduce labor costs for research projects by eliminating repetitive tasks such as hand-retyping data into spreadsheets. In addition to supporting technology startup efforts, the bill could also help save taxpayer dollars by simplifying financial audits.

"DataOhio will make it easier to quickly and effectively obtain public information," said Rep. Hagan. "It is important that the public has confidence in our state and local governments, and I believe that providing greater, clearer access to data will provide much-needed transparency."

"DataOhio is about eliminating unnecessary expense created by over-reliance on paper records and other difficult-to-use systems," said Rep. Duffey. "DataOhio is essentially how online stock market and GPS data works today, but state and local governments have been slow to adopt the same best practices. The bill encourages better standards, but without mandates on local government."

A long list of witnesses have testified in support of DataOhio, including Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost, State Librarian Beverly Cain, the Ohio Society of CPAs, the Ohio Newspaper Association, Greater Ohio, The Center for Community Solutions, the Buckeye Institute, OpenNEO, MORPC, and national transparency groups including the Data Transparency Coalition (which includes Ohio companies such as TeraData and StreamLink), the Sunlight Foundation and others.

The effort is also supported by individuals including Thomas Fitzpatrick, an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Ned Hill, an economist with The Ohio State University, David Landsbergen, an open data research professor with The Ohio State University, Jason Seligman, an economist with The Ohio State University, Brian Kelley, CIO for Portage County; and Gene Krebs, a former Ohio House Republican state representative.

DataOhio, as described in House Bill 130, consists of four primary components:

1. The bill creates a DataOhio Board to allow various groups to meet monthly to work on improving access to public records and recommend standards for how public records are organized.
2. The bill asks the State Auditor to create simplified accounting systems for public offices to allow "apples-to-apples" comparisons, as Ohio citizens might currently expect but which is not possible.
3. The bill creates a single-location website – data.ohio.gov – to function as a quick access portal, also known as an online data catalog, to save citizens time in searching one website rather than dozens of differently formatted websites.
4. As an incentive for publishing a small amount of open data, mostly to help get local governments more comfortable with publishing data online, the bill provides a framework for \$10,000 micro-grants to local governments if they successfully provide a small subset of data to the public online. The current version of the bill currently does not include any funding for the micro-grant program. Bill sponsors indicated they will be seeking agreement with the Ohio Senate on funding.

Taken together, these four components lay the foundation for Ohio citizens to have much easier access to public records, and would allow researchers to use their mobile phones or laptop computers to search rather than formally requesting hardcopies of

public records. Small startup companies in Ohio could also use the data to create jobs in information technology.

A number of other states have implemented open data policies similar to DataOhio, including Texas, Illinois, Rhode Island, Utah, New York, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maryland.

Reps. Duffey and Hagan have indicated that DataOhio would be complimentary to the Ohio Checkbook effort undertaken by Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, but that the legislation is technically a separate effort, as DataOhio works to establish data standards for a variety of non-financial data as well as financial data. As a result, some of the data produced might eventually be published by Ohio Checkbook, but it could just as easily be disseminated through other portals as well.

# # #





**From:** Best, Carolyn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:19 PM  
**To:** Adams, Alexandra; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora; Westlake, Libby; Smith, Kristen  
**CC:** VanBuskirk, Victoria; James, Ben  
**Subject:** RE: ALERT: Hagan Duffey HB 130 (Sending @ 5:20)

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**Subject:** ALERT: Hagan Duffey HB 130 (Sending @ 5:20)



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Majority Communications Department*

For Immediate Release:

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contact: Ben James  
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# # #

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:15 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
**Attachments:** Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



## **Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

## **Activity Reports**

Senate

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

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Please send all correspondence to [gongwer@gongwer-oh.com](mailto:gongwer@gongwer-oh.com) This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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**Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

**Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities**

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Conditt (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

### **Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program**

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21) urging the DOT to choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

#### **Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains**

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

### **Senate Committees Set To Return Late September**

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.

The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

### **State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms**

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

#### **ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference**

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

**Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...**

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

**Pensions:** U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

**Cincinnati Zoo:** Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

**U.S. Senate Race:** U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

### **Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff**

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

**Buckeye Institute:** The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguy's research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

### **Governor's Appointments**

**Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee:** Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

**Cleveland State University Board of Trustees:** Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

**Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas:** Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

**State Employment Relations Board:** J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Thursday, June 2**

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

**Monday, June 6**

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 8**

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, June 16**

**Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.**

**Supplemental Event Planner**

**Thursday, June 30**

**20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,**

**(All-invited celebration**

**of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)**

**17 S. High St., Suite 630**

**Columbus Ohio 43215**

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**Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley,  
Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers**

**Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.**

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## Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SB 337** **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

**Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference**

**Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)**

**Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.**

**State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22nd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.**

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

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**From:** report@hannah.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:25 PM  
**To:** DL\_Hannah  
**Subject:** Hannah News Stories for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

**Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

**IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:**

**Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.**

**Today's Stories**

- [Senate Announces Sessions for Rest of 2016; Composite Schedule Included with Today's Report](#)
- [Ohio First State to Launch STABLE Accounts under Federal Law](#)
- [Federal Judge Extends Block on Planned Parenthood Defunding Bill](#)
- [Local Leaders, OhioMHAS Join for Recovery Summit](#)
- [OTA Convention Features Next Gen 9-1-1 Discussion](#)
- [Last Week of Session Sees Legislature Finish Work on 35 Bills](#)
- [Study Panel to Consider Dropout Recovery School Issues](#)
- [State Government Roundup: Governor; AG](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Mary Taylor](#)
- [People in the News: Buckeye Institute](#)
- [Ohio Digest: COTA Funds](#)
- [Campus Chronicle: Special Education Grant](#)

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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2016 8:51 AM  
**To:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



## Ohio News & Opinion For June 24, 2016

### News

[Government administrators aim to go lean at Ohio conference](#) (Associated Press, 6/24/2016)

[Inmate walks off job site in Logan](#) (Athens Messenger, 6/24/2016)

[Donald Trump finally hires Ohio campaign manager](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/24/2016)

[Hillary Clinton coming to Cincinnati Monday with Elizabeth Warren](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/24/2016)

[Poll: Ohio divided on transgender bathrooms](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/24/2016)

[Judge overturns Cleveland's restrictions on RNC protests: Ohio Politics Roundup](#) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/24/2016)

[Ohio Democrats to push package of gay rights bills: What to watch for Friday](#) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/24/2016)

[Proposed amendment advocating prayer in Ohio schools rejected on technicality](#) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/24/2016)

[Rob Portman to help rehabilitate homes for Habitat for Humanity during Republican National Convention](#) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/24/2016)

Kasich's Democratic pick for PUCO raises Statehouse concerns over 'past activism'  
(Columbus Business First, 6/24/2016)

Advocates seek return to civility amid caustic campaign (Columbus Dispatch,  
6/24/2016)

Campaign veteran Bob Paduchik to lead Trump's Ohio campaign (Columbus  
Dispatch, 6/24/2016)

Ohio recognized for cutting government red tape, saving money (Columbus  
Dispatch, 6/24/2016)

Ohioans in poll oppose choice for transgender bathroom use (Columbus Dispatch,  
6/24/2016)

State to crack down on drunken boating (Columbus Dispatch, 6/24/2016)

Voters support Ohio library building boom (Dayton Daily News, 6/24/2016)

Advocates call for more civility in election discourse (Toledo Blade, 6/24/2016)

## **Editorials**

Gun violence and GOP inaction (Akron Beacon Journal, 6/24/2016)

Cleveland's onerous restrictions on RNC protests must go; editorial (Cleveland Plain  
Dealer, 6/24/2016)

Dump Trump effort, revived: Editorial Board Roundtable (Cleveland Plain Dealer,  
6/24/2016)

SEIU's \$15 minimum wage issue targets Cleveland for all the wrong reasons: Brent  
Larkin (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/24/2016)

Many owe their lives to Coleman (Columbus Dispatch, 6/24/2016)

Can't 97 senators pass a bill? (Toledo Blade, 6/24/2016)

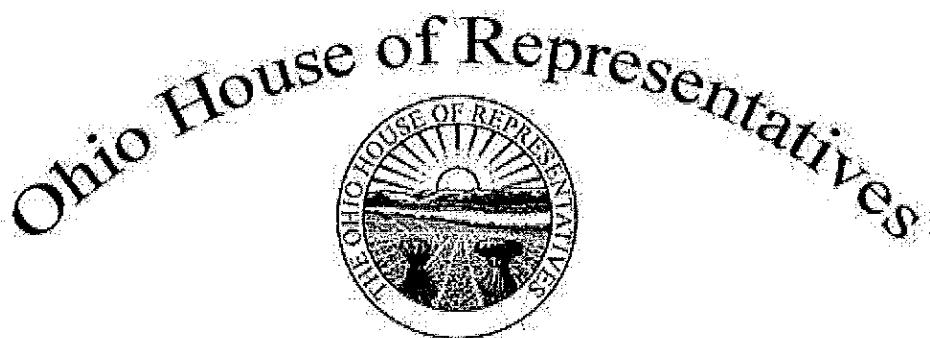
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**From:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2016 1:53 PM  
**To:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Subject:** Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work  
**Attachments:** Co-sponsor Request\_Public Sector Right to Work\_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** GOP House Members  
**From:** Representative John Becker  
**Date:** June 24, 2016  
**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

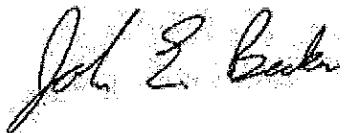
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or [Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov). The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

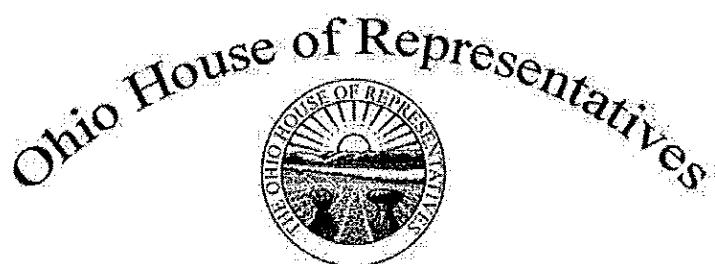
Thank you for your consideration.



John Becker  
65<sup>th</sup> House District



Legislative Aide  
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65  
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 466-8134  
[roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov)



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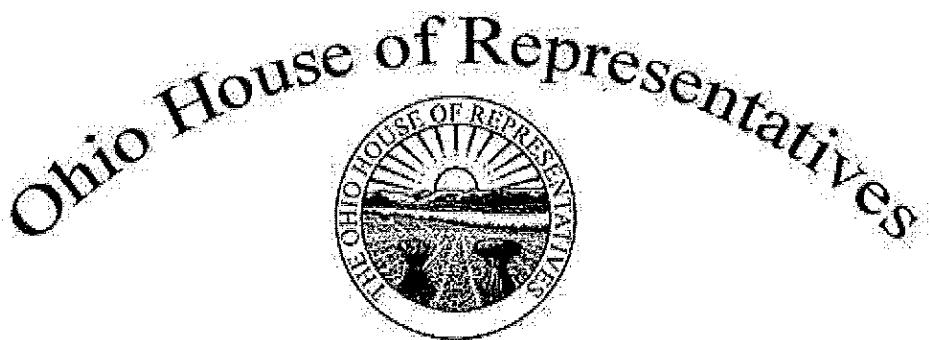
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Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Becker".

John Becker  
65<sup>th</sup> House District

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**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2016 1:51 PM  
**To:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Subject:** REMINDER: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work  
**Attachments:** Co-sponsor Request\_Public Sector Right to Work\_Becker.pdf



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Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

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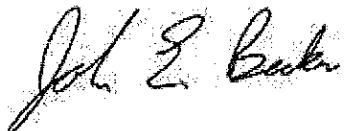
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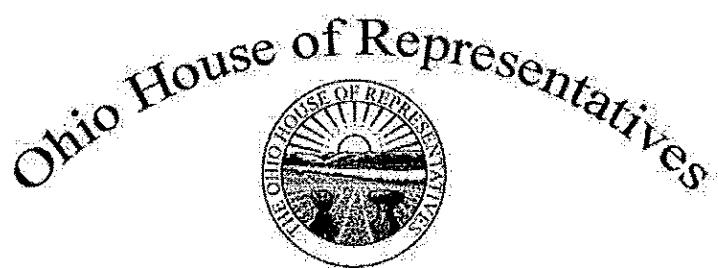
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65<sup>th</sup> House District



Legislative Aide  
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65  
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 466-8134  
[roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov)



Representative John Becker  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** GOP House Members  
**From:** Representative John Becker  
**Date:** June 24, 2016  
**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or [Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov). The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Becker".

John Becker  
65<sup>th</sup> House District

**From:** gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service [gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 4:13 PM  
**To:** Standard\_Subscriber\_misc\_html@gongwer-oh.com  
**Subject:** House & Senate Floor Reports



## Senate Activity for Thursday, June 30, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SB 339** ■ **MONTH DESIGNATION** (Tavares, C.) To designate the month of June as "Pride Month." En. 5.2299

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## House Activity for Thursday, June 30, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**HB 583** ■ **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING** (Becker, J.) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit public employers from requiring public employees to join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit an employee organization from being required to represent public employees who are not members of the employee organization, and to make an appropriation. Am. 9.81, 124.14, 124.15, 3345.31, 4117.03, 4117.04, 4117.05, 4117.09, 4117.10, 4117.11, 4121.03, 4121.121, 4121.69, and 5501.20

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### RESIGNATION ACCEPTED

Rep. Tim Brown, Republican, 3rd District, effective July 17.

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Click the <#> after a bill number to track that bill and create email alerts on activity.

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**From:** report@hannah.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2016 6:35 PM  
**To:** DL\_Hannah  
**Subject:** Hannah News Stories for Thursday, June 30, 2016

**Thursday, June 30, 2016**

**IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:**

**Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.**

**Today's Stories**

- [ODAg Shifts Exotic Animal Enforcement Focus to Smaller Facilities](#)
- [CSRAB Launches Committee to Review Statehouse Art, Mulls Themed Lighting](#)
- [Lawsuit Backers Challenging Voter Purge Weigh Appeal](#)
- [ACLU Praises Revised RNC Rules after Successful Challenge](#)
- [Becker Introduces 'Right to Work' for Public Employees](#)
- [SAK Testing Nabs Serial Rapist, Secures Forensic Center Grant](#)
- [ODE Releases Overview of Report Card Components Due for First Letter Grades in September](#)
- [Portman-Led Investigation Finds Cable Companies Overtaxed Ohio, National Customers](#)
- [Stateline: Amid Opioid Epidemic, More Schools Offer 'Sober Dorms'](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODOT](#)
- [People in the News: Stu Davis](#)
- [Executive Actions: Appointments](#)

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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2016 8:23 AM  
**To:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



## Ohio News & Opinion For July 1, 2016

### News

New attorneys' fees in Ohio to fund legal aid for poor (Associated Press, 7/1/2016)

How will medical marijuana affect your workplace? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/1/2016)

Joe Biden talks health care, praises doctors in Cleveland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Obamacare tax hike scheduled to hit retirees next year, but Sens. Brown, Portman want to stop it (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Rep. John Becker proposes right-to-work bill for public employees (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Rob Portman's campaign, PAC each announce new ads targeting Ted Strickland (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Sen. Tim Kaine accepted clothes, vacation as gifts: Today's number in politics (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Senate panel advances Carole Rendon's nomination for U.S. attorney of Ohio's northern district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Voting rights activists say election lawsuit claiming Jon Husted illegally purged voters is not over (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Controversial NRA ad attacking Clinton airing mostly in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Ohio Politics Now: Will Hillary Clinton consider Richard Cordray as a running mate? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Portman coal radio ad targets southern Ohio voters (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

State, troopers union return to contract talks (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Local hospitals among hundreds with multiple privacy complaints (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Taxpayers shelling out fewer dollars for fireworks displays (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

## **Editorials**

Commentary: The Supreme Court's Texas abortion ruling reignites a battle over facts (Canton Repository, 7/1/2016)

Six ways to make Ohio's online charter schools more accountable: editorial board (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Perpetuating preferences (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Put babies over politics (Toledo Blade, 7/1/2016)

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2016 8:27 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 7/1/2016

## HOUSE E-CLIPS 07/01/16



### **NEW ATTORNEYS' FEES IN OHIO TO FUND LEGAL AID FOR POOR**

New attorneys' fees approved by the Ohio Supreme Court will help fund legal services for poor and disadvantaged Ohioans.



### **STATE, TROOPERS UNION RETURN TO CONTRACT TALKS**

The state is heading back to the bargaining table to work on a contract with the Ohio State Troopers Association after the union soundly rejected a tentative agreement.

### **CITY OF COLUMBUS ISSUES NITRATE WARNING FOR TAP WATER**

By 2018, city water officials say, they won't have to issue advisories like the one Thursday, when high nitrate levels in drinking water in parts of the Columbus area triggered a warning for pregnant women and babies.

### **OHIO POLITICS NOW: WILL HILLARY CLINTON CONSIDER RICHARD CORDRAY AS A RUNNING MATE?**

Democrats in Columbus are apparently buzzing with the possibility of another Ohioan being considered as presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's running mate.



### **OHIO SUPREME COURT TO HEAR SPRINGFIELD RED LIGHT CAMERA LAW CHALLENGE**

The Ohio Supreme Court will consider Springfield's challenge to red light camera laws, weighing city leaders' argument that the new regulations violate their local authority.

## THE PLAIN DEALER

### OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL: CITIES CANNOT SET THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE

As the debate rages in Cleveland over a proposal to set the city's minimum wage at \$15 an hour starting in January, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Thursday issued an opinion stating that municipalities cannot legally set their own minimum wage.

### REP. JOHN BECKER PROPOSES RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

And Ohio lawmaker on Thursday introduced a right-to-work bill for public employees. But like a private employee bill proposed last fall, it's unlikely to pass.

### VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY ELECTION LAWSUIT CLAIMING JON HUSTED

#### ILLEGALLY PURGED VOTERS IS NOT OVER

A day after Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted scored a win in federal court, voting rights activists say the case is not over.

### REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION SECURE ZONE REVEALED: OHIO

#### POLITICS ROUNDUP

Countdown to Cleveland: With 17 days to go until the start of the Republican National Convention, we now know more about the boundaries of the high security perimeter surrounding Quicken Loans Arena. Read more from cleveland.com's Andrew J. Tobias' report.

### SIX WAYS TO MAKE OHIO'S ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOLS MORE ACCOUNTABLE:

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Led by state Sen. Peggy Lehner, the downstate Republican who chairs the Ohio Senate's education committee, the Ohio legislature did a yeoman's job last year of shoring up oversight of the state's much-ridiculed kindergarten-through-12th-grade charter school system.

## THE ENQUIRER

### STATE AUDIT: FOOD STAMPS ISSUED TO 36 DEAD PEOPLE

Dead people, duplicates and out-of-state purchases were just some of the fraudulent activities discovered in an audit of Ohio's food stamp program, according to State Auditor David Yost.

### BECKER INTRODUCES PUBLIC RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL

Rep. John Becker knows many fellow Republicans, including Gov. John Kasich, have little interest in an Ohio right-to-work law, but that didn't stop him from offering one anyway.

### HOW WILL MEDICAL MARIJUANA AFFECT YOUR WORKPLACE?

Andy Kaplan has been practicing law with the Cincinnati office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease for more than 30 years.

# THE BLADE

*One of America's Great Newspapers*

## **PANEL WEIGHS SUPPORT FOR CHILD CUSTODY CASES**

Deann Sanders' insurance company paid for the diagnosis of her severely autistic son at the age of 2, but offered no coverage for services.

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2016 8:36 AM  
**To:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



## Ohio News & Opinion For July 5, 2016

### News

Ohio usually a swing state, nearly always a bellwether (Associated Press, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's new schools superintendent gets on the job, looking for input from educators (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Ad Watch: NRA says Strickland 'sold out' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Becker introduces public right-to-work bill (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Trump announces visit to Sharonville Convention Center (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

'Raise Up Cleveland' continues \$15 minimum wage campaign, despite attorney general's opinion: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

No statewide ballot measures planned for Ohio's November election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Prospective new political parties in Ohio face filing deadline: What to watch for Tuesday (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Even after Kasich's campaign, state says it can't tally, release security bill (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Who in Ohio Democratic Party helped John Raphael? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Dispute over school funding embroils new federal education law (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Medicaid tax change to cost Ohio, counties (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Ohio quietly gave larger raises to non-union managers (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

State asks feds for permission to charge new Medicaid fees (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/5/2016)

Ohio law requires Tdap, meningitis shots (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Portman launching \$1M TV ad campaign (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

## **Editorials**

Voices of protest in Cleveland (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/5/2016)

Impact of heroin addiction on driving statistics (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

George Voinovich's legacy of collaborative politics must be revived; Joe Lieberman (Opinion) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's restrictive abortion-clinic laws need to be revised after Supreme Court's Texas ruling: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Trump's message resonates in Ohio coal country: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

New rules to let drone use soar (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Voters want to rein in government (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

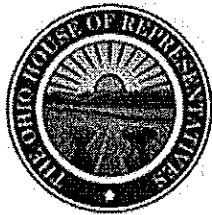
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**From:** Ohio House Republican Communications  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2016 1:04 PM  
**Subject:** Week in Review 6/27/16 – 7/4/16



## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Majority Communications Department*

# GOP Week in Review

6/27/16 – 7/4/16

### **The Vindicator: New Ohio state laws and their impact, to take effect in August, September**

There were big bills that were signed into law – a \$2.6 billion capital budget with projects across the states, and a fast-paced medical marijuana effort that will add Ohio to the list of states allowing the drug for specified medical conditions.

### **Sandusky Register: Sandusky State Theatre will be upgraded soon**

State Sen. Randy Gardner, R-Bowling Green, and state Rep. Steve Arndt, R-Port Clinton, both included the Sandusky State Theatre in a list of local projects that needed support.

### **Enquirer: Becker introduces public right-to-work bill**

Becker, R-Union Township in Clermont County, called his proposal a "win-win" for both sides: it would allow public sector workers to opt out of union representation and dues. But those who opt out would not be eligible for union protections.

### **Akron Legal News: New heroin law takes aim at drug dealers**

"This legislation will hold the drug dealers who are poisoning our neighborhoods accountable while we continue to help the addicted seek treatment," said Rep. Jonathan Dever, R-Madeira, a sponsor of the bill. "There is no silver bullet for ridding Ohio of heroin, but this law is a part of a solution that includes education and treatment options."

### **Journal-News: New addiction treatment center opens in West Chester**

State Rep. Margy Conditt, R-Liberty Twp, was also at the ribbon-cutting and she feels that Lumiere can help save lives and will be a benefit to Butler County.

### **Dispatch: Law fills a gap in paramedic care**

He and state Rep. Tim Ginter, R- Salem, were especially concerned that paramedics couldn't provide an antidote to police dogs that ,while working, were poisoned by prescription pain drugs or heroin.

**[Ellwood City Ledger: New law supports first responders who treat injured pets](#)**

Ohio's law, which follows a similar action by Colorado in 2014, came about after Bob Swickard, the director of an EMS service in a small town in northeastern Ohio, contacted state Republican Rep. Tim Ginter with concerns about a recent rash of on-duty injuries to police dogs.

**[Springfield News-Sun: Buck Creek State Park gets \\$1.4M in upgrades](#)**

The state held a dedication ceremony for the cabins at the state park Thursday.

**[The Independent: Rep. Christina Hagan shepherds Epi-pen bill](#)**

House Bill 200, sponsored by State Rep. Christina Hagan, permits public establishments, such as restaurants, swimming pools, schools and amusement parks, to carry a non-patient specific prescription to keep epinephrine, which can be administered via an injector known as an Epi-Pen.

**[Times Reporter: Column from Rep. Andy Thompson: Celebrating our country this Fourth of July](#)**

On this day, the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, people all across the nation engage in traditional celebrations of our nation's independence, with cookouts, fireworks, parades and the like.

**[The Vindicator: New law allows Ohioans to drink higher-alcohol content beer](#)**

Here are 10 more of 60 law changes OK'd before lawmakers left Columbus for their summer recess, with most set to take effect in August or September.

**[Dispatch: Hit-skip law wrecks create challenges for investigators who piece cases together](#)**

State Rep. Brian Hill, a Zanesville Republican, and Ohio Sen. John Eklund, a Republican from Geauga County, pushed for the changes. Fleeing the scene of a crash that causes serious injury or death is now a second-degree felony, which could carry as much as an 8-year sentence.

**[Heartland News: Ohio Lawmakers Approve Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms](#)**

State Rep. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) says the current system violates Ohioans' property and due process rights.

**[Journal-News: Hamilton natural gas customers dodge 10 percent rate hike](#)**

Gov. John Kasich signed a bill Tuesday that will spare Hamilton's natural-gas customers a 10-percent rate increase. "He signed it around 4:30 yesterday afternoon," state Rep. Wes Rutherford, R-Hamilton, said Wednesday. Rutherford and Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, who both live in cities with municipal gas utilities, sponsored the legislation.

**Akron Beacon Journal: Kasich signs expanded movie-production credit for Ohio**

"We are grateful to Governor Kasich, the Ohio House, and the Ohio Senate for giving us this opportunity to continue to grow a thriving and adaptive media industry in Northeast Ohio. I'd also like to thank Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Rep. Kirk Schuring, and Sen. Tom Patton, who have championed this legislation, and know just how much a sustainable media industry can benefit Ohio."

**Record-Herald: CACFC celebrates 'National Homeownership Month'**

Community Action Commission of Fayette County (CACFC) celebrated National Homeownership Month on June 24 by hosting an open house at the newly constructed home of Damian (Scott) and Ashley Forsha and their children. Also present were Marty Heide, representing Congressman Michael Turner, and State Rep. Gary Scherer was also in attendance.

**Times Reporter: Leaders from three counties, Ohio are inching closer to making progress on Route 30**

Last year, state Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Jackson Township, was influential in getting legislation passed that created a Regional Transportation Improvement Project. Now three counties — Stark, Carroll and Columbiana — have signed a cooperative agreement with a county commissioner from each to form the co-op.

**Daily Sentinel: Field of Hope breaks new ground**

State and federal officials appeared from the offices of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, state Rep. Ryan Smith, Congressman Bill Johnson, Sen. Rob Portman, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Gallipolis Municipal Court.

**The Blade: Accessible-for-all playground a first in northwest Ohio**

The renovation of Lakeview Park makes it northwest Ohio's first fully accessible playground. Also present were state Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) and Port Clinton Mayor Hugh Wheeler, Jr. An aide to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) presented two flags that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the park's reopening.

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 5, 2016 6:17 PM  
**To:** Miller, Brad  
**Subject:** Ohio Report, Tuesday, July 5, 2016  
**Attachments:** 160705dayplan.htm; Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm



## **Ohio Report for Tuesday, July 5, 2016**

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

## **Activity Reports**

Senate

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, July 6**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Historic Parlor and Conservatory, 348 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, 5 p.m., (Event Host: \$1000; Couple: \$150, Individual: \$100 to Friends of John Eklund)**

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Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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## Volume #85, Report #128 -- Tuesday, July 5, 2016

### Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

The state's high court has agreed to take up a second challenge to a law that has all but eliminated the use of traffic cameras by municipalities.

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments from the city of Springfield that a measure (SB342, 130<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) that requires a police officer to be present where traffic cameras are operating violates home rule and is not a general law.

In its memorandum in support of jurisdiction, the city called the law "a thinly veiled attempt to destroy local traffic-camera programs."

The city, which established its traffic camera program in 2005 at 10 intersections with high crash rates, sued over the law in Clark County Common Pleas Court but lost. It then took its case to the Second District Court of Appeals, where it again was unsuccessful.

The city now argues that if the appellate court decision is upheld, it could cripple the concept of home rule throughout the state.

"The Second District's decision erroneously reduces municipal authority and would return cities and villages to the position they were in before the people of the state of Ohio changed their constitution in 1912," the city wrote.

The city also makes the case that a "state statute with the principal purpose and effect of limiting municipal authority is not a general law to which municipal ordinances must yield."

"The Legislative Service Commission told the General Assembly that a single section of the bill, the section requiring a police officer to be present at the camera site, would cost municipalities \$73 million. The police officer sitting at the intersection has no role in the photo-enforcement process," the city wrote. "Inexplicably, SB342 requires that the officer sitting idly at a camera site must be a full-time officer. These provisions serve only one purpose - to burden photo-enforcement programs with excessive costs so that cities and villages will abandon them."

The court declined to take up a third proposition of law on whether a municipality has standing to seek a declaratory judgment declaring a state statute to be an unconstitutional incursion of its power of local self-government even where the statute does not conflict with a municipal ordinance.

In an amicus brief filed with the court in support of jurisdiction, the Ohio Municipal League and the city of Dayton, which is engaged in its own litigation over the law, also make the case that the concept of home rule is at stake. The city of Toledo has also filed an amicus brief in support of jurisdiction in the case.

"This matter extends well beyond a municipality's ability to adopt and enforce automatic traffic enforcement programs," the Dayton and OML filing states. "If the Second District's decision stands, it would give the General Assembly authority to legislatively eliminate constitutionally-provided home rule powers, specifically, those powers that are purely local."

The state, however, in its memorandum in response to jurisdiction called the lawsuit "a companion to the attack on the state's comprehensive regulation of traffic cameras."

"Like Dayton, its arguments rest on exaggerated conceptions of its home rule authority and distorted views of S.B. 342," the attorney general's office writes.

The state also deemed both lawsuits to be "quixotic attempts to redefine the court's teachings on police power regulations and standing."

### **After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting**

Following a federal judge's decision that struck down three provisions contained in election-related legislation that he says placed undue burdens on certain voters, one GOP lawmaker said it may be time to go with a "more rigorous" identification requirement blessed by the nation's high court.

One of the provision struck down required voters accurately complete all five fields on the provisional ballot affirmation and absentee identification envelope before their ballots could be counted, which Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview were for identification purposes.

Since that has been deemed unconstitutional, Sen. Seitz said lawmakers may have no choice but to go the voter ID route.

"This constant meddling in our state election laws ultimately means that you have to resort to something the Supreme Court has already blessed," he said. "I suppose you leave us no choice but to go the photo ID route."

Sen. Seitz said the identification measure struck down was designed to prevent voter fraud. He said the federal government refuses to tell the secretary of state's office if a Social Security number corresponds to an illegal alien.

"We have precious little protection against voting by illegal aliens," he said.

But Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said requiring state-issued IDs to cast ballots will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"This is more bluster and bullying of Ohio's voters from Senator Seitz, who has been deeply involved with most of the anti-voter legislation that the courts have thrown out over the last several years," she said. "Photo-only voter ID legislation is wrong for Ohio. It's not necessary, it's discriminatory, and it would cost the state and voters millions of dollars to implement."

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley's ruling, which struck down two other provisions in election-related legislation passed during the previous General Assembly, is being appealed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

Along with throwing out the provisional ballot requirements, the judge delivered a harsh critique of voting law trends in Ohio over the last several years, saying "the Republican-controlled General Assembly's frenetic pace of introducing such legislation reflects questionable motives, given the wealth of other problems facing the state which actually needed solutions."

"If the dog whistles in the General Assembly continue to get louder, courts considering future challenges to voting restrictions in Ohio may very well find that intentional discrimination is afoot," he wrote.

Sen. Setiz, however, said he and his colleague do not have any intention to put a moratorium on election-related legislation.

"Please be assured we are not going to be delinquent in doing our duty to the people of Ohio," he said.

He also denied there was a racial motivation behind the legislation, noting that another federal court judge found the provision to be constitutional.

"This is just another example of the double-standard that activist judges who might be better suited to be legislators are following in their zeal to do the will of the Ohio Democratic Party," he said.

Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

"Secretary Husted certainly understands Senator Seitz's frustration with the federal court's intrusion into Ohio's elections, which is why he has appealed the ruling," he said. "Once the appeal is decided and the 2016 election is over, we can calmly assess what law changes will be necessary to ensure a balance in our election system where it is both easy to vote and hard to cheat."

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) recently took to the Senate floor to call on his colleagues to pass an updated version of the Voting Rights Act. During his speech, he commented

on Judge Marbley's ruling and railed again voting "laws passed by an ultra-conservative state legislature in Columbus."

"We're the only advanced democracy in the world where there's actually efforts to restrict access to the ballot box," he said.

A voter ID bill has already been introduced this General Assembly. The measure (HB 189), put forth by Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), has yet to receive a committee hearing.

### **Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning**

Nonprofit hospitals and local health districts will have to complete health assessments along the same three-year cycles starting next year, according to legislation signed recently by Gov. John Kasich.

The requirement was part of a broader budget update bill (HB 390) the governor signed Tuesday. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2016)

Aligning the assessment periods is designed to make it easier for hospitals and their local public health officials to work together on setting priorities, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Hospitals have already been conducting their health assessments in three-year cycles, but local health districts have been doing so on five-year cycles. The change eliminates one of the barriers to cooperation between hospitals and local health districts, said Beth Bickford, executive director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

"The whole idea is to encourage hospitals and local health departments, both of which have requirements in this regard, to try to work more closely together and to get their planning aligned so hopefully they can feed off each other's work and get some synergy in communities to achieve their health outcomes," she said in an interview.

"It is a bit of a daunting task to completely solve the problem, but I think this effort to set the three-year interval is an effort to try to at least align things from a timing perspective," she added.

There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

### **Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say**

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

## Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

## Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known than an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

**Right to Work:** Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

**Hunger:** Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

**U.S. Senate Race:** The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

No agency meetings scheduled.

### **Supplemental Event Planner**

No events scheduled.

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## Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

### INTRODUCED

**SCR 22** ■ **FIREARMS (Yuko, K.)** To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

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## **Ohio Report for Thursday, July 7, 2016**

Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says

November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017

High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week

June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos

Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative

In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record

Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...

Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President

Supplemental Agency Calendar

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

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## Volume #85, Report #130 -- Thursday, July 7, 2016

### Stakeholders Point To New Charter Laws As Closures Increase, ODE Denies All Sponsorship Applications

In the wake of updated charter school laws, the list of buildings closing this summer is longer than ever and the Department of Education has declined to sponsor any new schools that submitted applications.

At the end of the fiscal year, 20 charter schools did not sign new sponsor contracts and will close their doors, according to ODE. Of those, 11 were given notice in January that their sponsors were dropping them, typically because of poor academic performance, while the other half closed voluntarily. (Closure List)

More than 100 other schools have shut down in the last five years, but this year's group is the largest since June 30, 2014 when 19 schools did not sign new contracts.

A handful of the schools that were given notice that their contracts wouldn't be renewed applied to ODE's Office of School Sponsorship, which can sponsor start-up schools and take over existing schools looking for new sponsors.

None of the 10 schools that sought new sponsorship were approved, however - a first for the department, according to application records from previous years. (Sponsorship Applicants)

Charter schools sponsors and supporters point to tighter closure and sponsorship laws (HB 2) as a cause for this year's stats.

Ron Adler, president of the Ohio Coalition for Quality Education, said it's likely that schools will continue to close in higher numbers each year because of sponsors' concerns about how their schools' state report card scores will impact their evaluations.

"I think that there are probably some schools being closed that probably need to be closed. However, I think sponsors today, with some of the criteria that has come through the Ohio Department of Education that has made it almost impossible and created penalties, they don't want to sponsor some schools," he said.

"We've got some sponsors that are very good at turning around schools and (ODE) has created such a fear factor that sponsors are hesitant for their own existence to help and improve the schools."

The new sponsor evaluations, which are detailed in the latest charter school legislation and overseen by ODE, factor in quality, compliance and academic performance.

Sponsors that don't score well in those areas could face losing their ability to continue sponsoring schools.

Sponsors have said they're prepared for poor showings in the performance category because of lower state test scores across the board. Unlike traditional schools, charters were not granted safe harbor from impacts related to report card results reflecting new standardized exams.

In addition to calling out lawmakers for failing to provide them with safe harbor, sponsors have also recently complained that it will be impossible to meet deadlines for producing compliance documentation that was requested by ODE as a result of the new laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 30, 2016)

"I think that House Bill 2 is being revered by some," Mr. Adler said in an interview. "I see it as all compliance, compliance, compliance. It is 106 pages of rules, regulations and mandates that just make it more difficult to operate and improve achievement."

Chad Aldis, vice president of Ohio policy and advocacy for the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, agreed that it is likely sponsors gave consideration to the new evaluations when making closure decisions this year.

But, he said he's hopeful that any needed tweaks can be made to both the laws and as the new procedures play out over the next few years.

"There are a lot of good charter schools and we wouldn't want to see them closed as a result of this and you also wouldn't want to see sponsors so afraid of the provisions that they won't open potentially new, strong, innovative schools that could really make a difference for kids," Mr. Aldis said.

"I think what we're in right now is a little bit of a correction phase and hopefully sponsors will have confidence in their decisions and continue to open schools when the school is likely to be successful."

Five sponsors in the state have plans to open 10 start-up schools for the 2016-17 school year, according to ODE. (Potential New Schools List)

ODE's Office of School Sponsorship will be evaluated with all other sponsors, but is not impacted by the new rating system that could prohibit a sponsor from taking on new schools or put a sponsor out of business.

However, the office took a more discerning approach this year when reviewing applications for taking over existing schools or aiding start-up operations.

"A top priority for the Ohio Department of Education is a strong system of accountability for all schools in our state, including charter schools and their sponsors," agency spokeswoman Brittany Halpin said. "Provisions in the recent charter school reform

legislation strengthen the department's ability to support high quality options for the state's students."

In the past, the department was required to sponsor any school that followed the application process correctly, but new laws allow it to deny schools that aren't meeting certain standards.

Mr. Aldis called the update that allowed it to decline all of this year's applications a "smart change."

"If (ODE) is going to sponsor schools, it should absolutely be able to determine whether the schools are performing well before it just takes one on," he said in an interview.

It's possible schools will continue to close at the same pace in coming years because House Bill 2 also put in place some guardrails to limit so-called "sponsor-hopping," Mr. Aldis said.

Updated laws prohibit charter schools from seeking new sponsorship if they don't meet fiscal management or performance requirements.

"The ability for lower performing schools to change sponsors is not what it used to be, so when you see the overall number of closures, some of those in the past might have gone on to a different sponsor and that can't happen now," he said.

### **Medicaid Underspending Driven By Increased Enrollment In Expansion Program, Administration Says**

The Kasich administration credits an improving economy and a more accurate eligibility determination system with driving nearly \$1.3 billion in Medicaid underspending last fiscal year.

The Medicaid program finished the year spending about \$926 million less than expected from the General Revenue Fund, and nearly \$1.3 billion less than expected from all funds, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

The underspending continues a longtime trend in the program covering multiple administrations. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 6, 2016)

According to OHT, the program enrolled about 3 million Ohioans on an average monthly basis during fiscal year 2016, about 32,000 below projections. While the overall enrollment was below projections, the number of people enrolled in the expansion group, which is completely funded by federal dollars, increased by 26,000.

Meanwhile, the number of people enrolled in the traditional program, which is partially funded by the state, was 58,000 below the estimate, according to OHT.

The administration said part of this shift is due to an improving economy - as people make more money, they move out of traditional Medicaid and into the expansion group, which includes people making up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

OHT also credited a new and more accurate system to determine eligibility, which assigns new enrollees to the proper category and moves them off the program as their finances improve.

Total Medicaid spending from all funding sources was \$25.3 billion, of which nearly \$17 billion came through the General Revenue Fund.

The federal share of Medicaid spending last fiscal year was \$715 million, or 3.9%, below the original budget estimate, while the state's share was \$550 million, or 6.7%, below the original estimate, according to OHT.

In fiscal year 2015, the Department of Medicaid reported total Medicaid spending of \$1.9 billion below the original budget estimate.

That year, enrollment for the expansion group was more than 152,000 above the original estimate, while enrollment in the traditional program was 192,000 below estimate.

### **November Ballot Won't Include Any Citizen-Initiated Amendments, Statutes; Some Groups Set Sights On 2017**

No citizen-initiated issues will appear on November's ballot, Secretary of State Jon Husted announced Thursday, a day after the deadline to file petitions for proposed constitutional amendments and initiated statutes.

A few high-profile efforts to reach the ballot were made this year, including two related to medical marijuana and one related to prescription drug prices, but none of those issues found a place on the ballot in November.

Backers of an initiated statute designed to lower the cost of prescription drugs will aim for 2017, said Michael Weinstein, president of the California-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which supported the measure.

Supporters of the proposal, called the Ohio Drug Price Relief Act, initially gathered enough signatures to bring it before the legislature, where no action was taken, but a review of those petitions by the secretary of state's office delayed the collection of signatures, prompting lawsuits by the initiated statute's supporters in state and federal courts. Both cases were dismissed after Mr. Husted transmitted the proposal to the General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 19, 2016)

In an email, Mr. Weinstein said the proposal will have to wait for next year after the delays.

"We will go for 2017," he said. "We are collecting and will submit sufficient signatures within the 90 days allowed."

Another lawsuit, filed by industry groups challenging the petition signatures gathered for the initiated statute, is ongoing. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

A proposal dealing with lawmaker lobbying, called Ethics First - You Decide Ohio, also made a push for the ballot. The Ballot Board divided the issue into three different issues, a decision the amendment's backers challenged in the Ohio Supreme Court. The Court dismissed that challenge in May. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Ronald Alban, one of the proposal's backers, said in an email that they have no intention of moving forward with the proposal.

Two citizen-initiated proposals to legalize medical marijuana, one backed by the Washington-based Marijuana Policy Project and the other by a group called Grassroots Ohio, will also not appear on the ballot after an early push in the wake of last year's failed Issue 3 vote.

The MPP-backed Ohioans for Medical Marijuana group announced it would not pursue the ballot after lawmakers passed a bill (HB 523) in May creating a medical marijuana system. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 31, 2016)

Backers of Grassroots Ohio have said they are pushing forward with their proposal, which would create a constitutional right to possess marijuana for a medical purpose, with an eye on the 2017 ballot.

### **High Court Set To Hear Two Death Penalty Cases, Along With Four Other Cases Next Week**

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear appeals in two death penalty cases next week.

In one case, an Akron man convicted of the 2011 murders of his children's mother and her boyfriend plans to raise 14 legal claims in appealing both his sentence and conviction.

David Spaulding, who was sentenced to death for the 2011 murder of Erica Singleton and Ernest Thomas, will argue that he received ineffective legal counsel because both of his attorneys were not present for all proceedings in the case, that a witness' statement should have been suppressed and that he was denied legal counsel during interrogation.

Ms. Singleton obtained a civil protection order against Mr. Spaulding on Dec. 1, 2011, following a string of domestic violence incidents. However, two weeks later, Mr. Spaulding showed up at the place Ms. Singleton was staying with Mr. Thomas. He first shot another tenant, Patrick Griffin, who was paralyzed by the shooting, before killing Ms. Singleton and Mr. Thomas in their driveway.

In January 2013, a jury convicted Mr. Spaulding of aggravated murder, attempted murder and violation of a protection order.

In the second case, a Medina County man will argue that seven claims of legal and procedural errors should afford him a new trial.

Steven Cepec will claim that, among other issues, he was prejudiced by statements in court about a prior burglary conviction, that the trial court should have held a hearing on the competency of a witness and that his constitutional rights were violated because police continued to question him after he asked for a lawyer.

Mr. Cepec was convicted of murder, aggravated robbery and aggravated burglary following the 2010 death of Frank Munz, who was found bludgeoned with a hammer and strangled with a lamp cord.

Police arrived on the scene while Mr. Cepec was still in the home after receiving a call from Mr. Munz's nephew, Paul Munz, whose testimony at trial was called into question in the appeal. Upon arrival by the police, Mr. Cepec fled on foot. He was later found nearby hiding under a bush, the court reported.

The high court will hear four other cases next week:

- In *re Application of Buckeye Wind*, the high court will hear arguments from Champaign County residents that a hearing should be held on amended construction plans for the state's first wind-powered generation facility. The Power Siting Board approved a construction application in 2010 and the developer proposed revision to the plans in 2013.
- In *Disciplinary Counsel v. Joltin*, disciplinary counsel will object to the professional conduct board's proposed sanctions on a Canfield attorney found to have mishandled client funds, mismanaged his client trust account and not fully cooperated with the investigation. The professional conduct board proposed a sanction of two years, with 18 months stayed under certain conditions. However, disciplinary counsel will argue for an indefinite suspension.
- In *Defiance County v. Testa*, the court will consider whether the tax commissioner lawfully denied a Defiance County commissioner's request to transfer \$2.5 million from the county landfill fund to pay for emergency repairs to the county courthouse and to make renovations to meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- In *Foley v. University of Dayton*, the court will decide what the statute of limitations is for filing a negligent misidentification claim and whether absolute privilege or qualified privilege shield the defendants' statements to law enforcement.

**June Revenue Down At Most Casinos, All Racinos**

Overall revenue at Ohio's four casinos was down in June, with three of them seeing decreases from May, according to the Casino Control Commission.

The four casinos took in \$62.9 million in revenue in June, down from \$66.5 million in May and the lowest total of the year so far, according to revenue reports. Last June, the casinos brought in \$63.5 million, the lowest monthly total of the year.

Video lottery terminals at the state's racinos brought in a total of \$70.7 million in June, down from \$78.2 million in May. They ended the fiscal year with nearly \$869 million in revenue, up from \$773 million in fiscal year 2015. (VLT reports)

JACK Cleveland was the only Ohio casino to see an uptick in revenue in June, bringing in \$16.3 million compared to just over \$16 million in May, according to revenue reports. The casino was closed for 40 hours in May while it rebranded from Horseshoe Cleveland to JACK Cleveland.

Of JACK Cleveland's revenue, \$8.7 million came from table games, while \$7.6 came from slot machines, according to the report. The casino's monthly revenue was up nearly \$2 million from \$14.4 million in June 2015.

JACK Cincinnati saw the biggest drop in revenue in June, bringing in \$14.1 million compared to \$16.2 million the month before. JACK Cincinnati was closed for 40 hours in June to rebrand from Horseshoe Cincinnati. Of its revenue in June, \$9.4 million came from slot machines and \$4.6 million came from table games. Last June, the casino brought in \$16.1 million.

Hollywood Columbus saw revenue drop by more than \$860,000, falling from nearly \$17.8 million in May to more than \$16.9 million in June. Slot machines accounted for \$11.8 million in revenue, while table games accounted for \$5.1 million. Last June, the casino's revenue was \$16.4 million.

Hollywood Toledo saw revenue drop nearly \$900,000 to \$15.6 million in June, with more than \$13 million coming from slot machines and \$2.6 million coming from table games. Last June, the casino took in \$16.6 million.

**Racinos:** VLT revenue at all seven of the state's racinos declined from May to June, with Scioto Downs seeing the largest decrease, dropping nearly \$1.7 million from just under \$13.5 million in May to just under \$11.8 million in June.

At Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park, revenue fell more than \$1.5 million to \$17.9 million in June, while at Miami Valley Gaming it fell by nearly \$1.5 million to \$10.8 million.

Revenue at JACK Thistledown Racino fell by more than \$941,000 to \$9.1 million. At Hollywood Mahoning Valley Race Course, it fell by nearly \$806,000 to \$7.6 million. Revenue at Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway fell more than \$693,000 to just under \$7 million in June, and revenue at Belterra Park fell more than \$457,000 to \$6.4 million.

## **Cleveland, Akron To Join White House Mentorship Initiative**

U.S. Sen Sherrod Brown will be joined by administration officials this week in Northeast Ohio to expand an initiative that aims to provide mentoring and opportunities for boys and young men of color.

My Brother's Keeper, a program launched by President Obama in 2014, is coming to Akron and Cleveland Friday, the Avon Democrat announced in a Thursday call with reporters.

They will join Dayton, Columbus, Massillon, East Cleveland and Berea in becoming MBK communities that provide mentorship and resources. Sen. Brown said Cincinnati is also preparing to take part in the initiative.

"It's up to all of us to ensure that all our children - regardless of their zip code or the color of their skin - have the opportunity to succeed," he said. "And I hope more cities across our state will accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge, and work toward that goal."

Nearly 250 communities have agreed to be part of the MBK Challenge, said Broderick Johnson, chair of president's MBK Task Force. Partnerships in those communities have resulted in more than \$600 million in grants and in-kind resources.

One of the latest drives of the initiative is to link sixth and ninth graders with mentors who can provide support and encouragement to go to school and work toward graduation, he said. Cleveland will be among 30 communities in the country that will provide those mentors focused on reducing chronic absences from school.

Federal agencies also recently partnered to launch the Second Chance Pell pilot program under the MBK umbrella, Mr. Johnson said. It allows 67 colleges and universities - including Ashland University - to provide Pell Grants to 12,000 inmates.

"We're working to make sure the various departments of the federal government that are part of the MBK Task Force continue to look at the programs they have and collaborate on programs to make sure that we can better target federal resources and partnerships with the private sector so that every child in this country has a clear pathway to success, really from crib through college and career," he said during the call.

MBK Mentor Quinn Howard said the program is working in Dayton to provide positive role models for young men of color.

The starting point for Dayton's mentorship program is to help youth "see themselves as contributors to the community," he said.

"Young men in our community need to see positive role models that they can emulate," Mr. Howard said. "It is important not only to provide young men with direction and guidance but to also build nurturing relationships through listening and understanding.

Mentoring young men with basic fundamental values will hopefully provide them with a sense of purpose that can help them succeed in life."

### **In Cincinnati, Trump Expands On Controversies; ODP Blasts Billionaire's Business Record**

Before Donald Trump took the stage in Cincinnati Wednesday evening, he was expected to use the speech to hammer Hillary Clinton over recent events pertaining to her use of a private email server.

Instead, he spent most of his time stoking further controversy over his recent comments on Saddam Hussein and doubling down in his defense of an image he tweeted that has been deemed to be anti-Semitic.

The GOP presumptive nominee did strike out at Ms. Clinton in his stream-of-consciousness remarks, deriding an FBI recommendation that she not be charged and, in a tangent, likening her to a mosquito when one landed on his lectern.

"It's a disgrace," he said. "She has got bad judgment."

But the candidate spent more than two-thirds of his more than one-hour long speech seeking to explain his own controversies in recent days, effectively fanning the media attention those remarks have received.

That includes controversy over Mr. Trump's Saturday tweet featuring a picture of Ms. Clinton against a backdrop of dollar bills with a six-pointed star containing the text "Most corrupt politician ever."

The tweet drew criticism from those contending the graphic is rooted in anti-Semitism, but Mr. Trump has since said the star is less a Star of David and more of a "sheriff's badge" and that it is the media, not his campaign, that is being prejudicial.

"(The media's) profiling," he told the Sharonville crowd. "Not us. Because why are they bringing this up?"

Mr. Trump, in his most expansive remarks on the topic yet, said he was disappointed his staff took down the tweet.

He also expanded on his prior remarks at a Tuesday rally and in interviews in which he seemingly praised Saddam Hussein for dispatching terrorists. House Speaker Paul Ryan and others have criticized the remarks.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Trump said it was inaccurate to characterize his comments as "praise" for the fallen dictator.

"I said Saddam Hussein is a bad man...but he did one thing well: he killed terrorists," Mr. Trump said. "I wake up and turn on the television: 'Donald Trump loves Saddam Hussein.' That's not what I said."

In a one-on-one interview with the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mr. Trump said, "That's not praising Saddam Hussein. I would say maybe it's the opposite."

The interview seemingly led a Trump spokeswoman to attempt to "dress down" the reporter for "disrespectful questioning," according to tweets of the exchange from the journalist.

"I said Trump's the GOP candidate for president and tough questions are part of the job," the reporter tweeted. "(Trump press secretary Hope Hicks) said as a candidate he deserves respect."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a potential VP pick, also appeared at the rally, though his appearance was overshadowed in media reports by Mr. Trump's speech.

He accused the Clintons of corruption and questioned the timing of the recent FBI announcement. He also took a swipe at Gov. John Kasich, who has declined to endorse the billionaire, saying that although the governor "is a good friend of mine, it's about time he got on the Trump bandwagon."

**Democrats:** State Party Chairman David Pepper and Columbus City Councilmember Jaiza Page held a press conference on the steps of Columbus City Hall Thursday, responding to Mr. Trump's remarks and seeking to cast him as a failed businessman.

Mr. Pepper contrasted Mr. Trump's Cincinnati appearance with Ms. Clinton's Ohio visit last week, saying of Mr. Trump's speech "I don't even know how to characterize what a disturbing speech it was." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016)

Organized by the Clinton campaign, the event was the latest in a line of attacks from Clinton supporters on Mr. Trump's business dealings in Atlantic City, which they contend includes bankruptcies, failures to pay contractors and the loss of hundreds of jobs.

Mr. Trump has promised to bring the same level of success to running the country as he has to his business ventures.

"(In Atlantic City,) Trump came out on top but the city didn't," Mr. Pepper said. "It's not just Atlantic City. This is a pattern over the years all around the country.... We just can't let Donald Trump do to Ohio, do to Columbus, what he did to Atlantic City and what he's done to innocent Americans all over the state through his business actions and scams."

**Court Briefs: Buckeye Institute Files Brief In 'Golden Week' Lawsuit; Former Mayor Legally Fired From Lottery Commission Post...**

The Buckeye Institute has joined the battle over whether Ohioans should have a five-day window in which they can register to vote and cast ballots on the same day.

The group has filed a brief in the U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals supporting Secretary of State Jon Husted's challenge to a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio.

The Buckeye Institute, however, challenged that finding in its brief.

"The fact that African Americans previously used Golden Week at slightly higher rates does not suggest that they will somehow stop participating under the new law. All the minority voters who voted in Golden Week are ready and able to vote in the current four-week period, and there is no evidence suggesting they will not avail themselves of that broad opportunity," it reads.

Representing The Buckeye Institute in the case is Michael Carvin, an election and appellate law expert with the global Jones Day law firm.

"Plaintiffs argue that a federal law that has been on the books for 34 years suddenly requires Ohio to extend its already generous early voting and requires Ohio to permit same-day registration. The law does no such things," Mr. Carvin said in a statement. "Nor does it invalidate the laws of the 40 states that offer fewer voting days than Ohio."

**Firing:** The Court of Claims has found that former Seven Hills Mayor David Bentkowski was legally terminated from his post at the Lottery Commission.

Mr. Bentkowski, who was terminated in November 2012, alleged that his supervisor and the lottery's director of human resources engaged in discriminatory practices. He claimed Elizabeth Popadiuk made discriminatory remarks about Lottery Commission employees, which she denied, the high court reported.

Court of Claims Judge Patrick McGrath found that Mr. Bentkowski failed to prove that his firing was payback for claiming the employer was engaged in discriminating practices.

**Pro Bono Work:** Ohio attorneys provided pro bono work in 2015 to the tune of \$10.3 million, the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation and the Ohio Supreme Court reported Thursday.

More than 4,300 attorneys reported pro bono activity in 2015, accounting for about 76,300 hours of free legal service.

Another \$406,000 was donated to organizations that provide legal services to low-income Ohioans.

"We were excited that the number of attorneys who voluntarily reported their pro bono work more than doubled from last year," OLAF's Pro Bono and Communications Director Jane Taylor said in a statement. "I believe these results reflect the Court's continuing emphasis on access to justice for all and its strong commitment to ensuring that every Ohioan can get legal help, regardless of income."

### **Capitol Scene: Fadel Appointed Ohio Insurance Institute President**

Longtime Ohio Insurance Institute staffer Dean Fadel will serve as the association's newest president, OII Board Chairman Tim Timmel announced Thursday.

Mr. Fadel, who has been with OII since 1988 and currently serves as its vice president of government relations, will transition to the new position over the next few weeks, according to the board.

He'll replace President Dan Kelso, who recently announced retirement plans. Mr. Kelso had led the association since 1989, when it merged with the Insurance Federation of Ohio, which he had overseen since 1977.

"We're confident that the association will continue making great strides on behalf of its members, Ohio's property/casualty (P/C) insurance companies, with a focus on maintaining the stable, affordable insurance environment that Ohio consumers have experienced for decades," Mr. Timmel said of the transition.

### **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

**Wednesday, July 13**

**Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.**

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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## **Daily Activity Planner for Friday, July 8**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

**Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (The Code Committee will meet immediately after the full board.)**

**State Emergency Response Commission, 2855 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, 1:15 p.m.**

### **Event Planner**

**Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser, Mohawk Golf and Country Club, 4399 S. State Route 231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30am Light Breakfast and Registration; 10:00am Shotgun Start. Major Sponsor: \$2,500; Registration Sponsor: \$1,500; Scoreboard Sponsor: \$750; Foursome: \$600; Driving Range Sponsor: \$500; Beverage Cart Sponsor: \$250; Individual Golfer: \$175; Hole Sponsor: \$150 to Friends of Bill Reineke)**  
**Summer Fridays at the Statehouse concert, West Steps, Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m., (RMT)**

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## Legislative Committee Schedules beginning 7/8/2016

### Monday, July 11

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 466-4086), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, July 12

Senate Public Utilities (Committee Record) (Chr. Seitz, B., 466-8068), Finance Hearing Rm., 1 p.m.

- Confirmation hearings on governor's appointments of Asim Haque and Howard Petricoff, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

### Thursday, July 21

Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee (Committee Record) (Chr. Burke, D., 466-1731), Senate Finance Hearing Rm, 9 a.m.

**NOTE:** Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the u after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

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## **Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016**

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

## **Calendars**

Day Planner

Event Planner

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## Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

### Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

### **ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race**

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

### **RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...**

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

**Rules Committee:** GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

**Schedule:** The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is schedule to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

**Bob Bennett:** The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

**Tourism:** With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

#### **Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts**

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

#### **Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot**

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

### **Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback**

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE.

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

**Accreditation:** Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer than education for years to come."

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

**Standards Revisions:** Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

#### **Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored**

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

**Eminent Domain:** The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

**Honor:** A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

**Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC, SOS, ODNR, PUCO, Senate**

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

**BWC:** As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

**Secretary of State:** Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

**Department of Natural Resources:** A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

**PUCO:** The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

**General Assembly:** Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

#### **From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan**

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

**Border:** Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

**Funding:** U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

**Zika:** U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling though this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

**Abortions:** Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

**Trade:** An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

**Israel:** Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two countries. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

**SNAP:** Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

### **Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage**

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

### **Attorney General's Opinion**

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.  
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.
3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.
4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.
5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.
6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

## **Supplemental Agency Calendar**

### **Wednesday, July 20**

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

### **Thursday, July 21**

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

## **Supplemental Event Planner**

### **Saturday, July 16**

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

### **Wednesday, July 27**

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

### **Sunday, August 7**

End of Ohio State Fair

### **Sunday, October 2**

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

### **Thursday, October 20**

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

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Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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**et seq.) as is retransmission by facsimile or any other electronic means, including electronic mail.**



## **Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18**

### **Legislative Committees**

No legislative committees scheduled.

### **Agency Calendar**

No agency meetings scheduled.

### **Event Planner**

#### **Saturday, July 16**

**Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)**

**Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.**

**Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)**

#### **Monday, July 18**

#### **Republican National Convention, Cleveland**

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